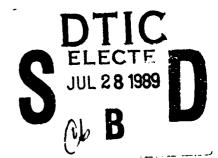


SEMI-MONTHLY TEMPERATURE AND GEOPOTENTIAL ANOMALY
IN THE UPPER 500 METERS
ALONG THE OAHU - FARALLON ISLANDS GREAT CIRCLE
FROM NOVEMBER 15, 1967 THROUGH DECEMBER 15, 1979

James M. Price and Dailin Wang

May 1989

Prepared for Office of Naval Research under contract N00014-82-C-0380



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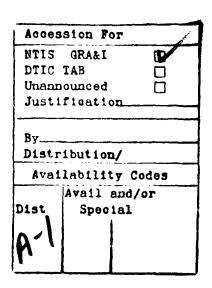
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Abstract

Semi-monthly time series of expendable bathythermograph (XBT) observations, objectively mapped onto the great circle arc from Oahu, Hawaii to the Farallon Islands off San Francisco. California are presented. They reveal the temperature structure in the upper 500 meters from November 15, 1967 through December 15, 1979. In addition, sections of geopotential anomalies relative to 5 MPa (5 mega Pascals) derived from the temperature sections and temperature/salinity (T/S) relations are presented. Averages of temperature and geopotential anomalies over the 12 complete years of data coverage, 1968 – 1979, and over each semi-month (i.e. all January 1 sections, all January 15 sections, all February 1 sections, etc.) during the 12-year period accompany the time series.

A modest bibliography of articles on other observations of the temperature structure and currents in the North Pacific is included, along with a brief discussion of the various topics addressed in the studies referenced.





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Introduction

One of the best data sets available to study the oceanic circulation in the upper 500 meters in the eastern, mid-latitude North Pacific is the expendable bathythermograph (XBT) observations collected by the National Marine Fisheries Service in a ships-of-opportunity program begun in June 1966, using commercial ships traveling between the Hawaiian Islands and North America. Processed data from this program were obtained on two different occasions, separated by about 7 years. On each occasion, the data received had been processed differently by different investigators. The two acquisitions will be referred to as data sets 1 and 2.

Data set 1 was obtained in 1978 from J. F. T. Saur (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) and Clive E. Dorman (San Diego State University). They optimally interpolated the individual XBT observations onto the great circle arc between a point southeast of Oahu (21° 12' N, 157° 42' W) and the Farallon Islands, just off San Francisco, at several depths between the surface and 500 m (Dorman and Saur, 1978, and Saur et al., 1979). The horizontal grid spacing was 92.3 km, yielding 42 equally spaced grid points. The ship transects were performed at roughly 2-week intervals. The optimal interpolation employed a regular 15-day grid spacing over the interval from June 1966 through December 1974. The grid points were the 1st and 15th of each month.

The first year and one-half of observations were made with shallow sounding XBT probes (down to about 300 m). Subsequently, deeper sounding probes (below 500 m) were used. The shallower data did not extend deeply enough for the research problem under investigation at that time and were eliminated from consideration. Consequently, data set 1 begins on November 15, 1967 and ends on December 15, 1974.

A few temperature inversions below 90 meters were found and eliminated by linear interpolation to generate monotonically decreasing temperature with increasing depth. Many temperature inversions were found above 90 m and were not smoothed-out; they are often large compared to instrument error and are probably real.

Data set 2 was obtained in 1985 from Douglas R. McLain (National Marine Fisheries Service) for the purpose of re-examining with longer records some interesting phenomena seen in data set 1. The raw data from each transect after December, 1974 had been mapped onto 39 equally spaced grid points (about 100 km separation) along the same great circle section by the following procedure. An XBT cast within 20 km of a grid point was regarded as being coincident with the grid point. Otherwise, linear interpolation in the horizontal direction was performed to obtain values at the grid points. This was done at 10-meter depth intervals from the surface to 500 m. No mapping was done in time; the raw observations were made at roughly 2-week intervals.

The same problem of temperature inversions encountered in data set 1 was found in data set 2 and was handled the same way.

Data sets 1 and 2 were merged at the University of Hawaii by re-griding data set 2 onto the data set 1 grid with the optimal interpolation component of the Harvard University Ocean Descriptive and Predictive System (ODPS) (Miller et al., 1983). A model covarience C(x,z,t) of the temperature field was assumed. Here, x is the distance along the great circle, z is depth, and t is time. The assumed covarience is

$$C = (1 - r^2)e^{-r^2/2}$$

where

$$r^{2} = (\Delta x/600 km)^{2} + (\Delta z/300m)^{2} + (\Delta t/100 days)^{2}.$$

The parameters 600 km, 300 m, and 100 days were chosen from consideration of the dominant length and time scales seen in spectral decompositions of the data. The resultant time series spans a little more than 12 years — from November 15, 1967 through December 15, 1979.

In addition to the temperature time series, geopotential anomalies (i.e. anomalies of dynamic height) were produced by combining the temperatures with temperature/salinity (T/S) relations derived from hydrographic data averaged within 2-degree boxes along the great circle (Fig. 1). Price (1981) analyzed the temporal variation of the surface geostrophic currents derived from data set 1. He identified 4 basic flow regimes defined by recognizable features in the geopotential profiles. These regimes are shown schematically in the insert in Figure 2, along with a typical profile of the geopotential before and after spatial smoothing (solid and open circles respectively). The spatial smoothing was performed with a 3-point running mean average with filter weights of [1/4, 1/2, 1/4].

The 4 flow regimes were identified as follows. Between Oahu (point A in Fig. 2) and the maximum in the geopotential profile (point B) is a northwestward component called V1, which exhibits strong seasonal variation. Sometimes the maximum in the geopotential occurs at Oahu, in which case V1 is zero by definition. Toward the eastern end of the section is a region of steep topography (the region between points C and D). This is the California Current, labeled V3 in the figure. Between V1 and the California Current is a region of weak southeastward flow, labeled V2. Finally, between the minimum in the geopotential (point D) and the Farallon Islands (point E) is the Davidson Current (V4), which also varies seasonally. Sometimes the minimum in the geopotential is coincident with point E, and V4 is zero by definition.

Figure 2 also shows a region immediately to the west of the California Current where there are fairly large oscillations in the geopotential about a larger-scale slope that is roughly horizontal, a kind-of "plateau." This feature frequently, but not always, appeared in the sections. (Only the California Current and the weaker "interior" flow V2 appear in every section.) Also, it is in the geographic neighborhood of the subtropical front and may be coincident with it. (This front is much more conspicuous as a salinity front than a temperature front; the XBT observations alone do not determine its location.) The difficulty in identifying (or arbitrarily imposing) the western edge of this "plateau" discouraged declaring it to be a 5th flow regime, although it persists in the 12-year mean.

Note that V1 has a companion local maximum: a second, neighboring peak in the geopotential profile. This situation was a common occurrence and also has been observed in a few hydrographic/CTD sections running roughly perpendicular to the Hawaiian ridge (Roden, 1977 and 1980, and Talley and deSzoeke, 1986). On a few occasions, 3 prominent peaks were seen. These peaks could be cuts through eddies or part of a complex current system along the northeastern flank of the Hawaiian Islands.

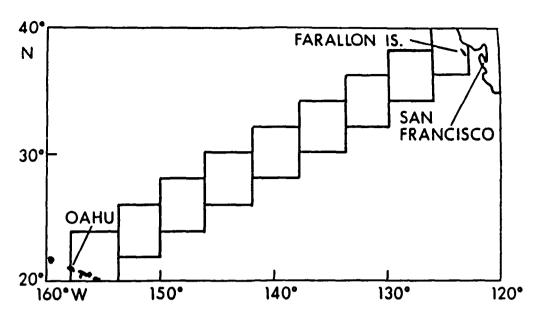


Figure 1. Two-degree boxes along the great circle section between Oahu and the Farallon Islands in which historic hydrographic observations were averaged to produce temperature/salinity (T/S) relations.

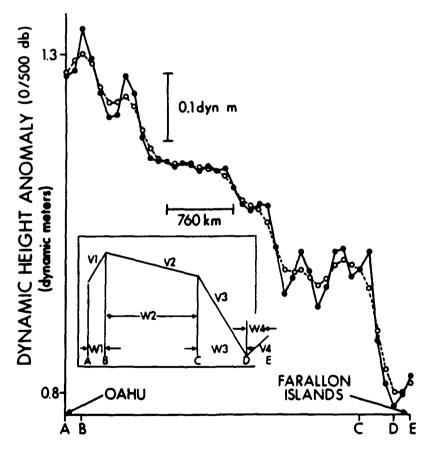


Figure 2. A representative profile of geopotential anomaly before and after spatial smoothing (solid and open circles respectively). The insert contains a schematic of the 4 flow regimes identified. V1, V2, V3, and V4 are the surface transports; W1, W2, W3, and W4 are the time-varying widths of the currents.

The variation in the widths of the 4 components (W1, W2, etc.) (Fig. 2 insert) was also examined. W1 and W4 strongly correlated with the V1 and V4 geostrophic transports primarily because of the definitions of the currents. The width of the California Current, W3, tended to increase with an increase in its transport, V3. The maximum in the width of the California Current tended to preced the maximum in its strength by 1 to 3 months. This is not an artifact of the definition of the current. The width of the interior flow, W2, however, did not correlate with fluctuations in V2.

Data Presented

Three kinds of presentations are made in this report. The first is the temperature at selected depths, followed by the geopotential anomalies relative to (about) 5 MPa (i.e. 5 mega-Pascals, which equals 500 decibars) derived from the temperature and T/S relations. Thirdly, the geopotential anomalies at 0/5 MPa, 1.5/5 MPa, and 0/1.5 MPa are shown together for comparison. No spatial smoothing was performed on any of these sections.

Each presentation consists of the great circle sections in time-series fashion from November 15, 1967 through December 15, 1979, followed by the average over the entire 12 complete years 1968 through 1979, which, in turn, is followed by the averages over all January 1 sections, all January 15 sections, all February 1 sections, ..., all December 15 sections. To avoid temporal bias, the first 3 sections were not used in the averages. These were the sections from the end of 1967. Instead, the averaging was done over the 12 complete years 1968 through 1979.

Other Observations

The data set presented in this report is somewhat unique because of the excellent temporal coverage. Other valuable observations of temperature and currents in the mid-latitude North Pacific have been made over the years and may also be of interest to the reader. The bibliography contains references to descriptions and analyses of some of these data sets; it is in no way exhaustive. However, many excellent studies are listed, and an investigator just beginning to learn about temperature and current observations in the North Pacific can make a good start with them.

The earliest systematic investigation of the waters around the Hawaiian Islands known to the authors was conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The investigation was part of a larger program called the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigation (POFI), which surveyed a large portion of the central Pacific. Six cruises were dedicated to the Hawaiian Islands area. McGary (1955) reports on the first three, and Seckel (1955) describes the observations from the last three. Temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and inorganic phosphate concentration were observed along with the prevailing meteorological conditions and geomagnetic electrokinetograph (GEK) measurements of the currents. The other publications by Seckel document further analyses of the data from the POFI cruises and results from subsequent studies including a repeated hydrographic grid around the larger (inhabited) Hawaiian Islands, surveyed monthly for one and one-half years Seckel (1968).

In the mid-1960's, additional comprehensive hydrographic cruises in the Hawaiian waters

were made by Wyrtki et al. (1967), along with measurements from moored current meters (Wyrtki et al., 1969). The most conspicuous features found were strong cyclonic and anti-cyclonic eddies in the lee of the islands (Patzert, 1969).

More recently, there have been a couple of hydrographic sections (Roden, 1977 and 1980) and one CTD section (Talley and deSzoeke, 1986) made (roughly) orthogonal to the Hawaiian ridge. These sections show some of the same features seen in the XBT data and demonstrate that most of the baroclinic structure within 1000 km of the islands exists in the upper 500 m. The numerous other citations of Roden's work refer to excellent investigations of the North Pacific Drift, the subarctic and subtropical fronts, and the smaller (uninhabited) Hawaiian Islands and seamounts in the Kuroshio Extension region. Also, Van Woert (1982) uses satellite observations to study the subtropical front north of the Hawaiian Islands.

The original motivation for collecting the data was to study possible fields of baroclinic Rossby waves. References under the names of Cummins, Emery, Kang, Magaard, Mysak, Oh, Price, Sun, and White refer to theoretical and observational studies of baroclinic Rossby waves in the North Pacific. In addition, comparisons of sea level fluctuations and geostrophic currents have been made by Price (1981) and Saur (1972). Descriptions of the circulation of the whole-subtropical gyre can be found in Wyrtki (1974) and in McNalley et al. (1983). Finally, many other important studies of the Hawaiian Islands area can be found in the bibliography compiled by Gaynor and Magaard (1985), an invaluable source for those interested in the marine biology and geochemistry of the Hawaiian Islands area as well as its physical oceanographic features.

Acknowledgments

We thank T. Saur, C. Dorman, and especially D. McLain for access to the National Marine Fisheries Service XBT data and for generous help and advice in the initial stages of our data analysis. L. C. Sun's invaluable help in merging the 2 data sets with the Harvard Open Ocean Model is gratefully acknowledged. We appreciate B. Jones's conscientious assistance in the preparation of the manuscript. This study was funded by the Office of Naval Research, whose support is gratefully acknowledged as well as the special efforts made by R. Ryan and J. Rubano to help us secure the funding. This is Hawaii Institute of Geophysics Technical Report 89-1.

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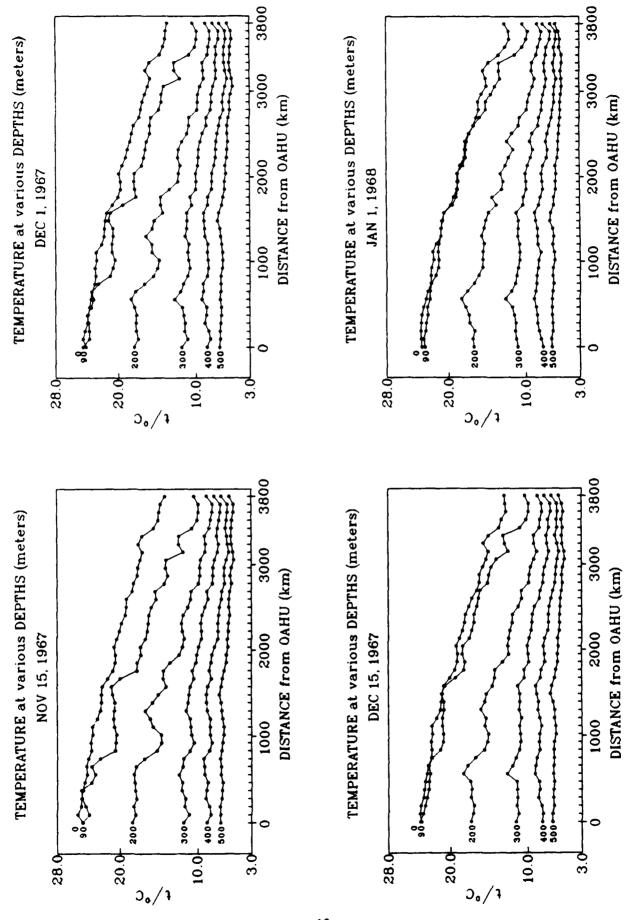
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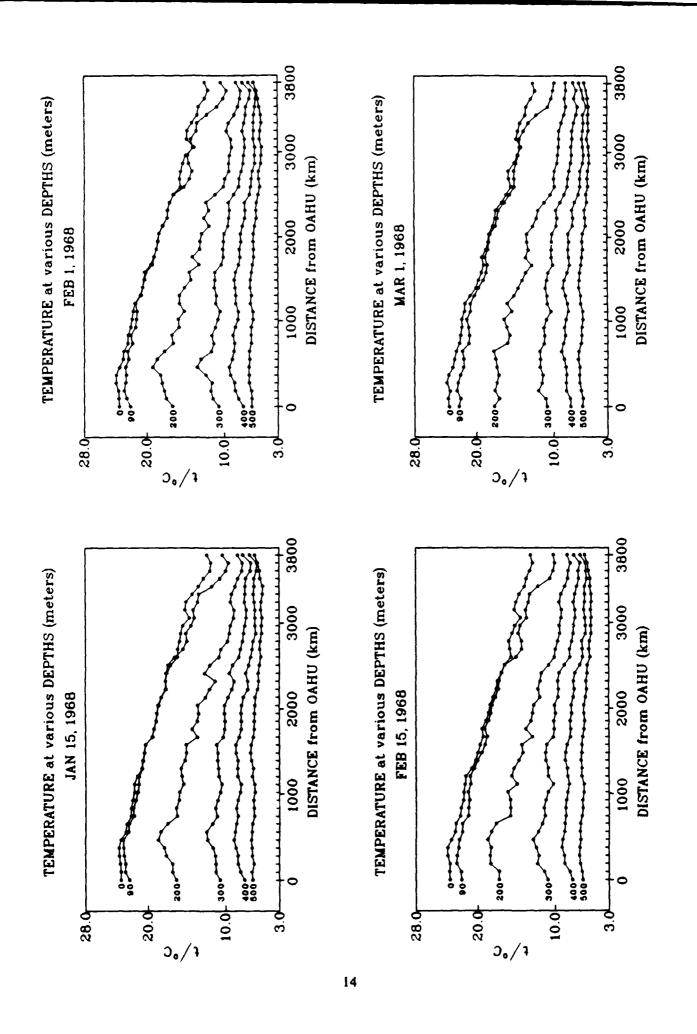
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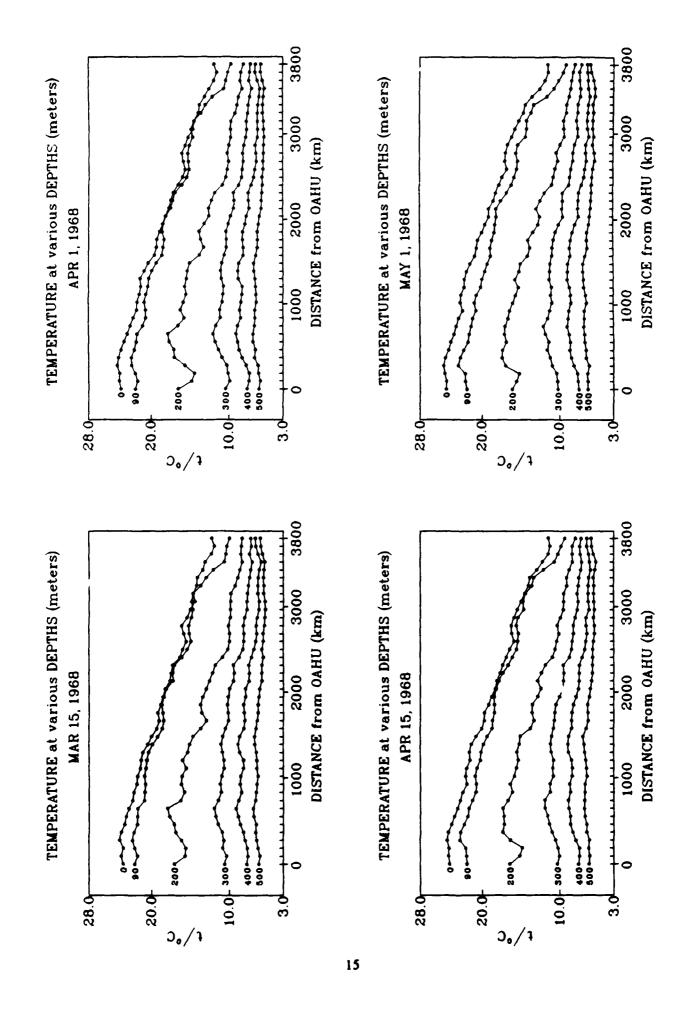
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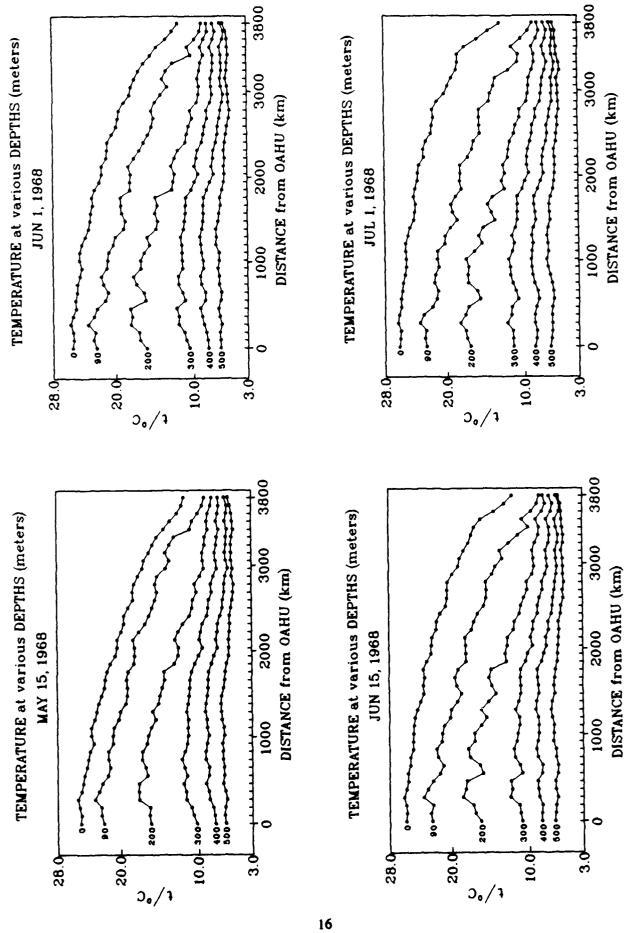
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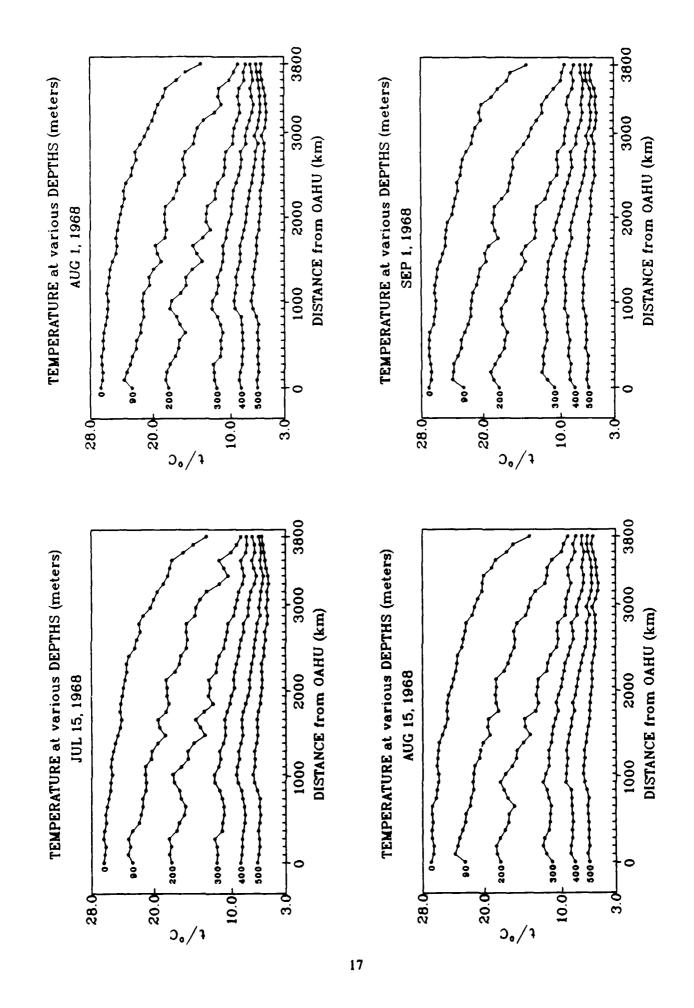
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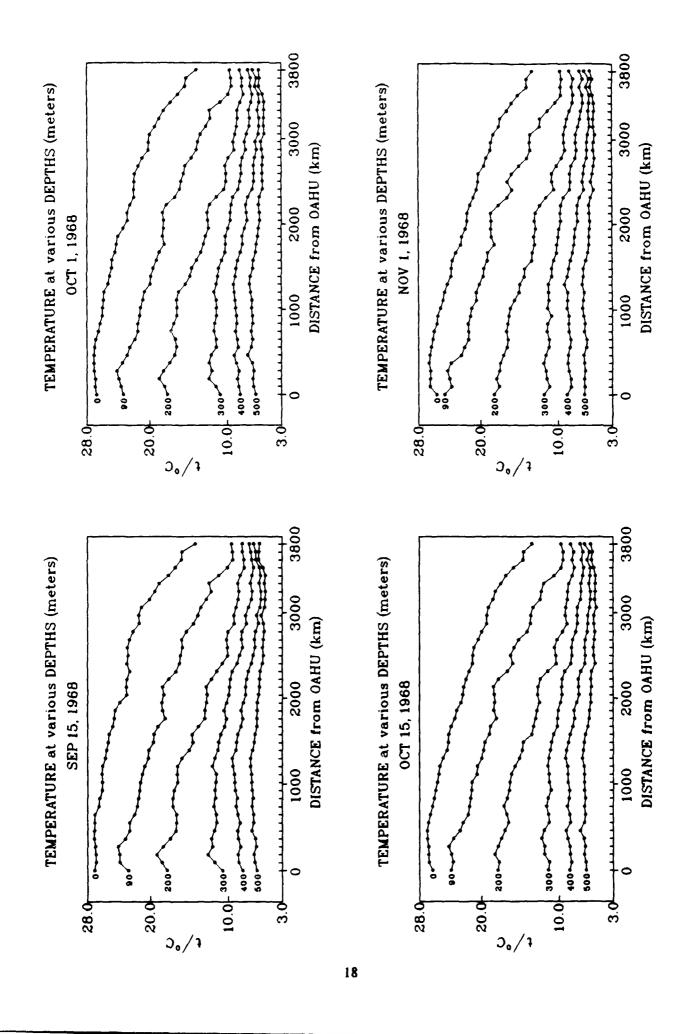


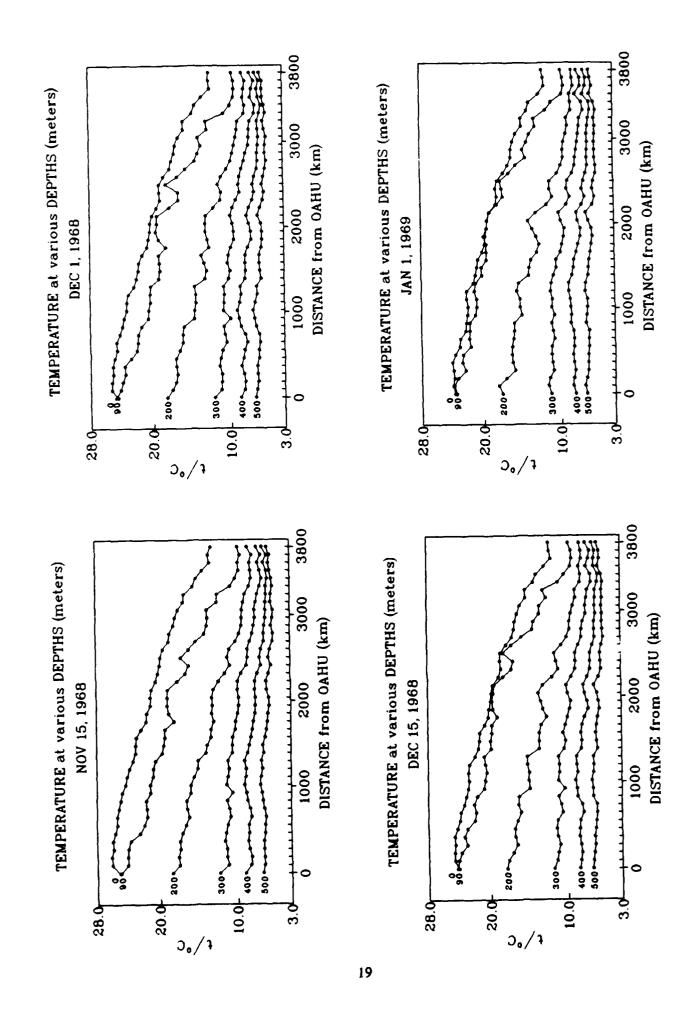


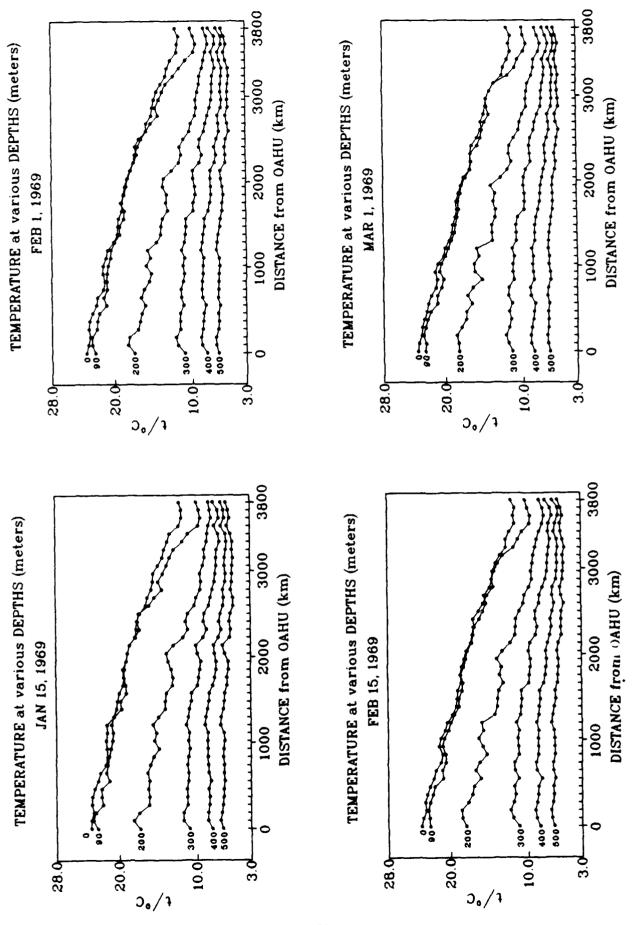


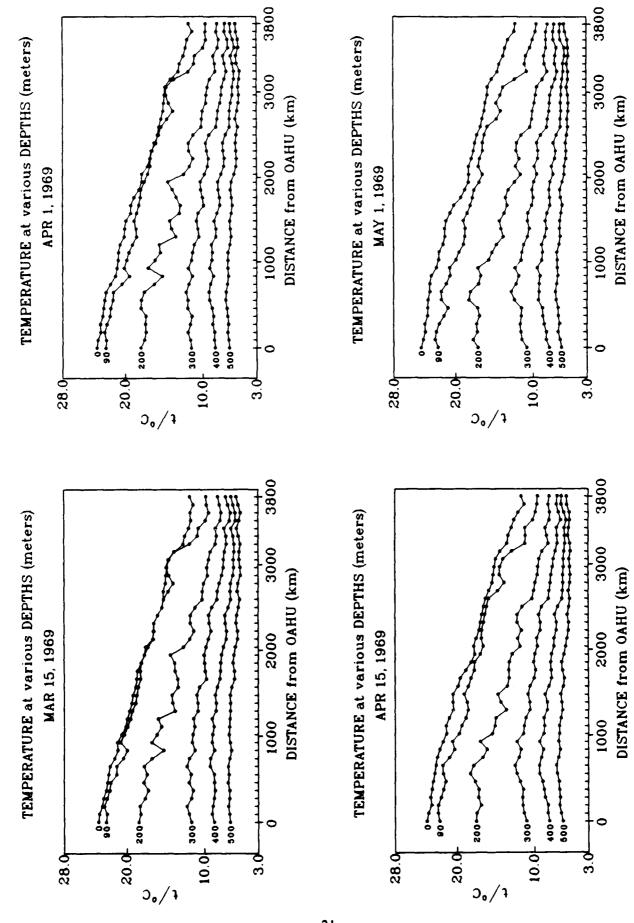


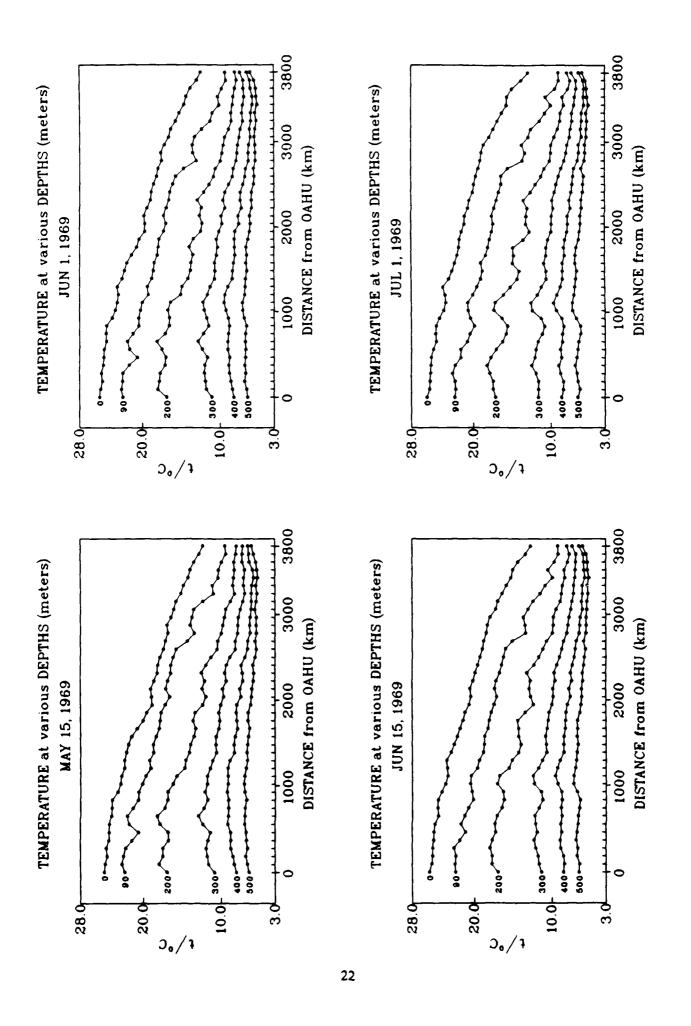


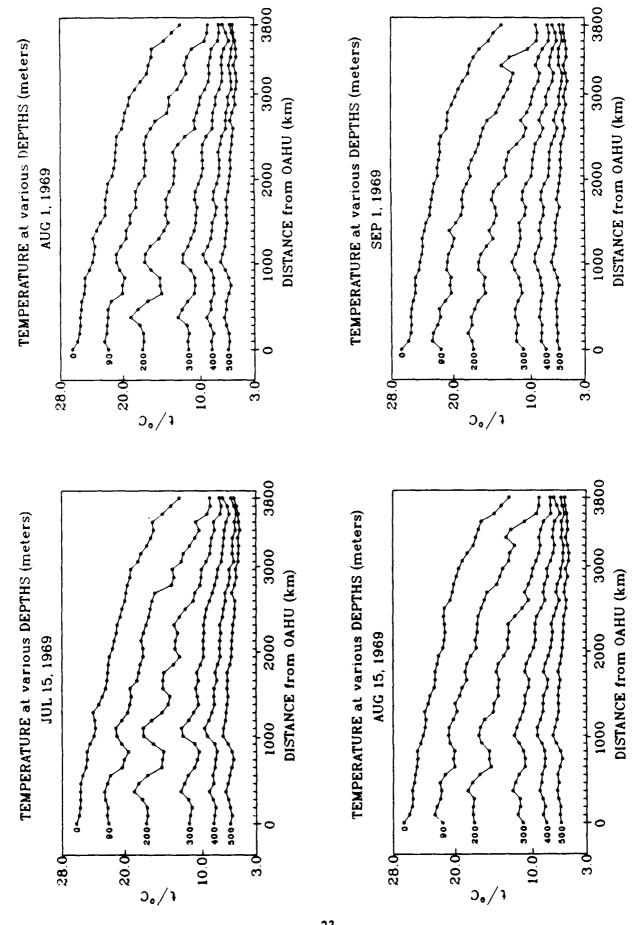


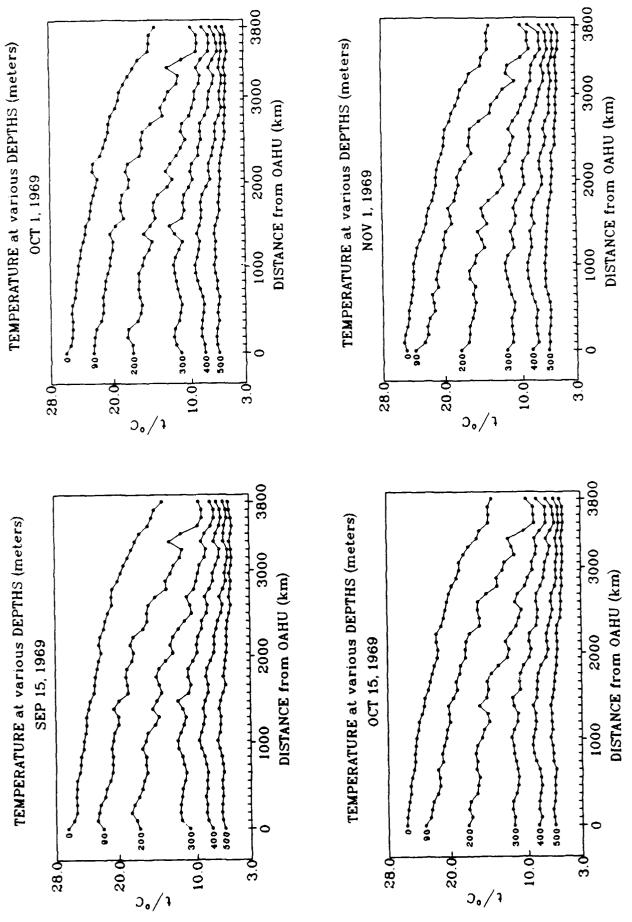


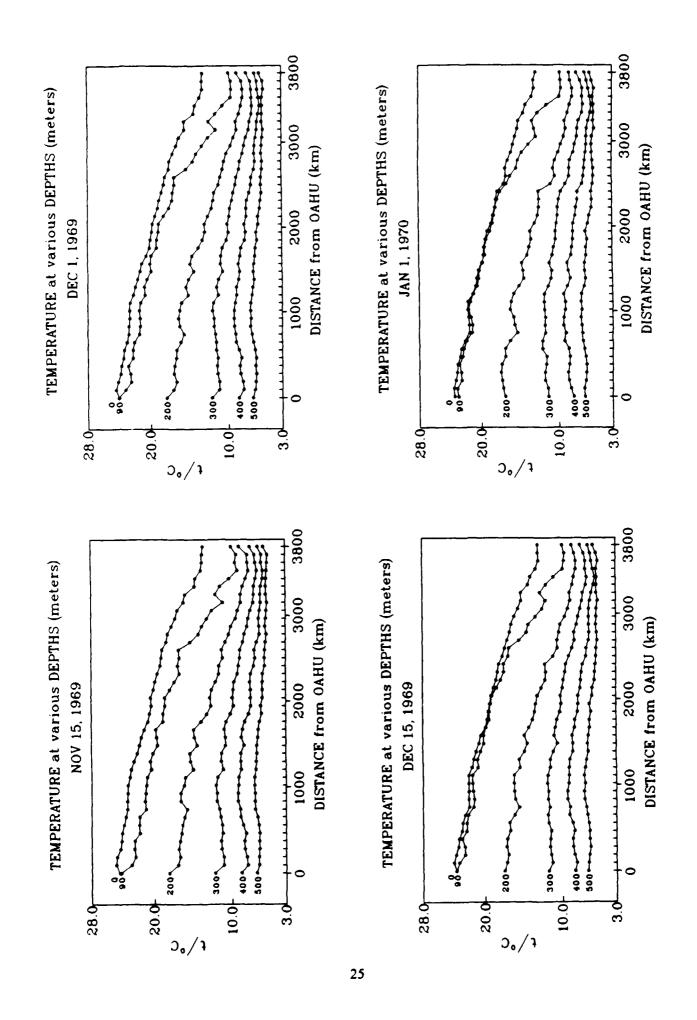


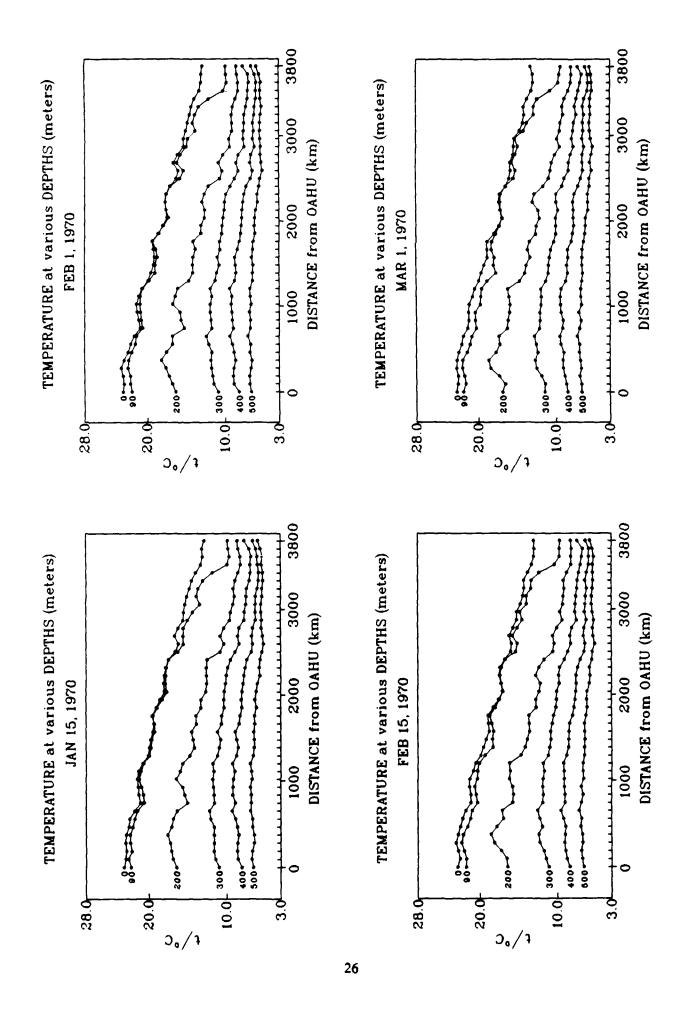


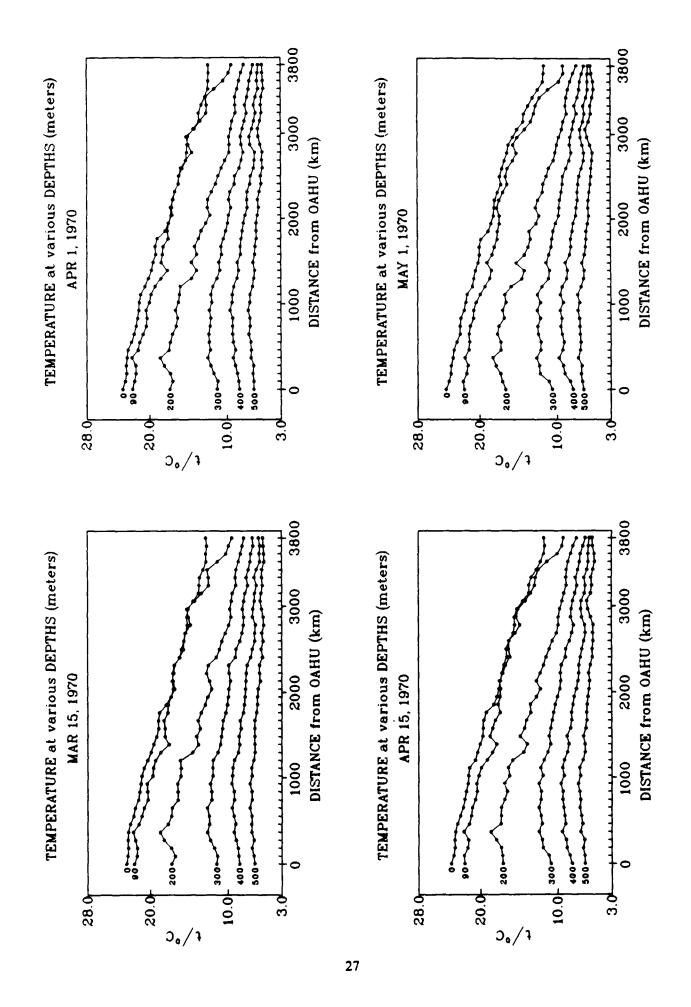


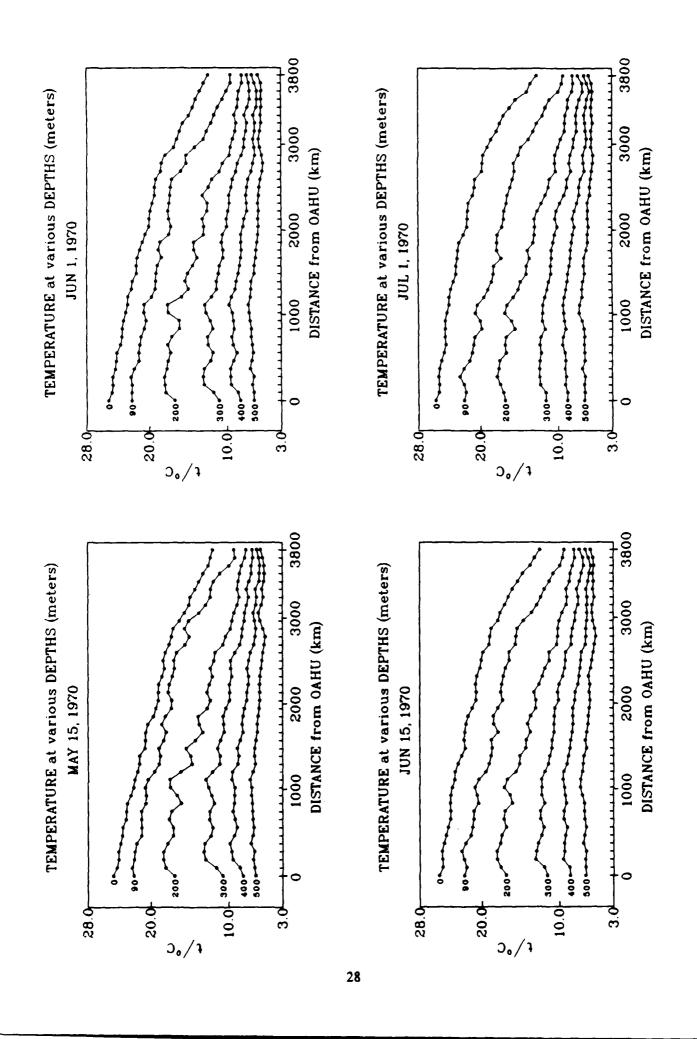


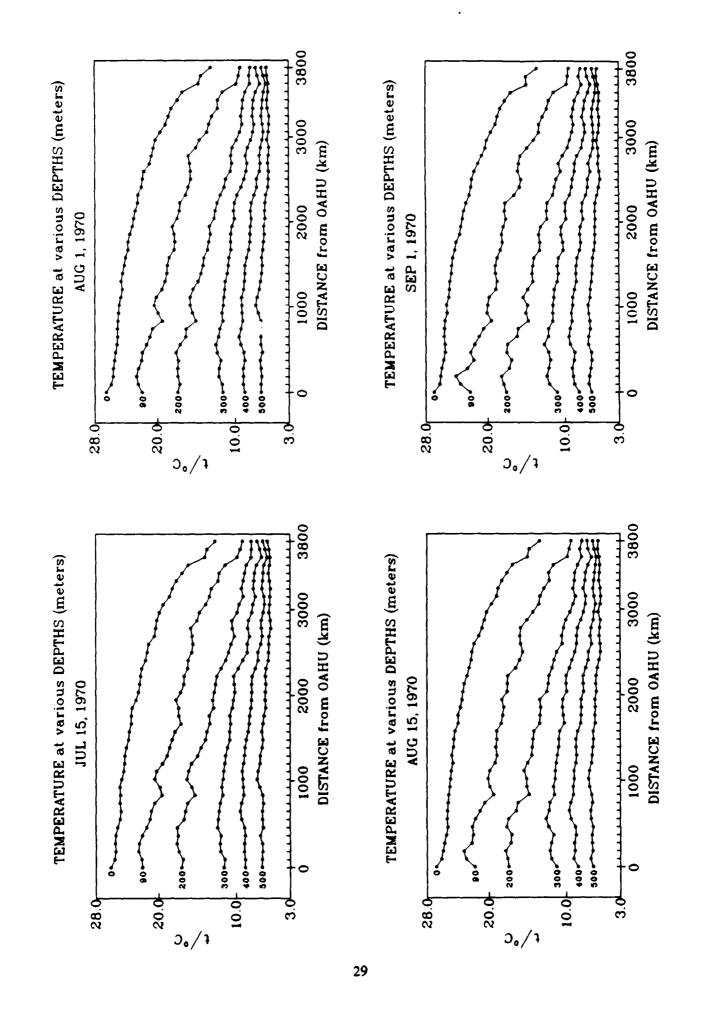


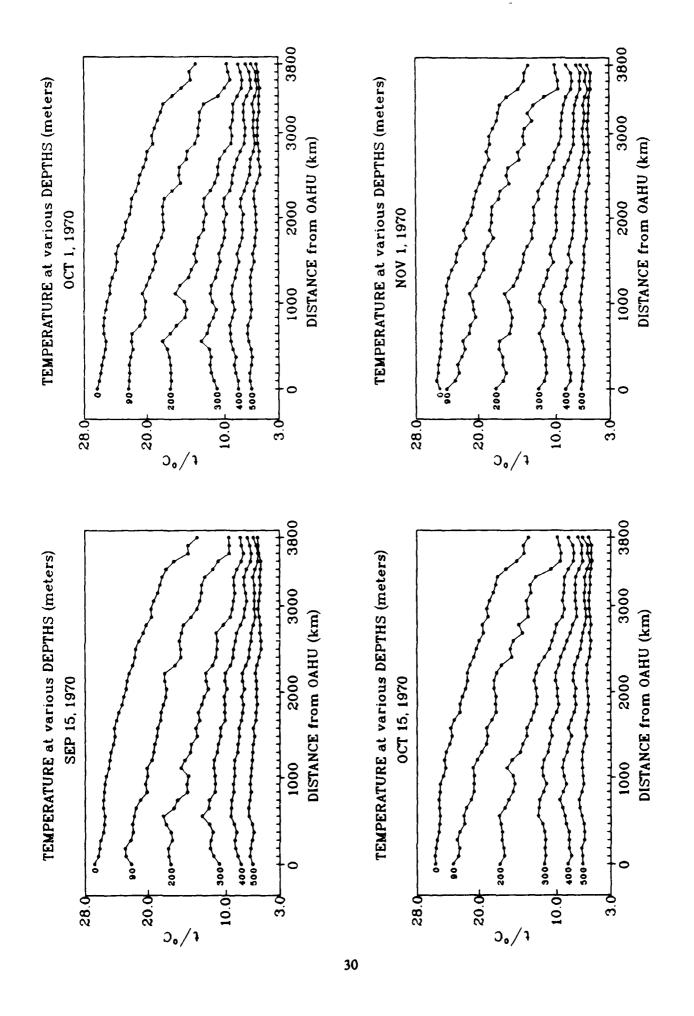


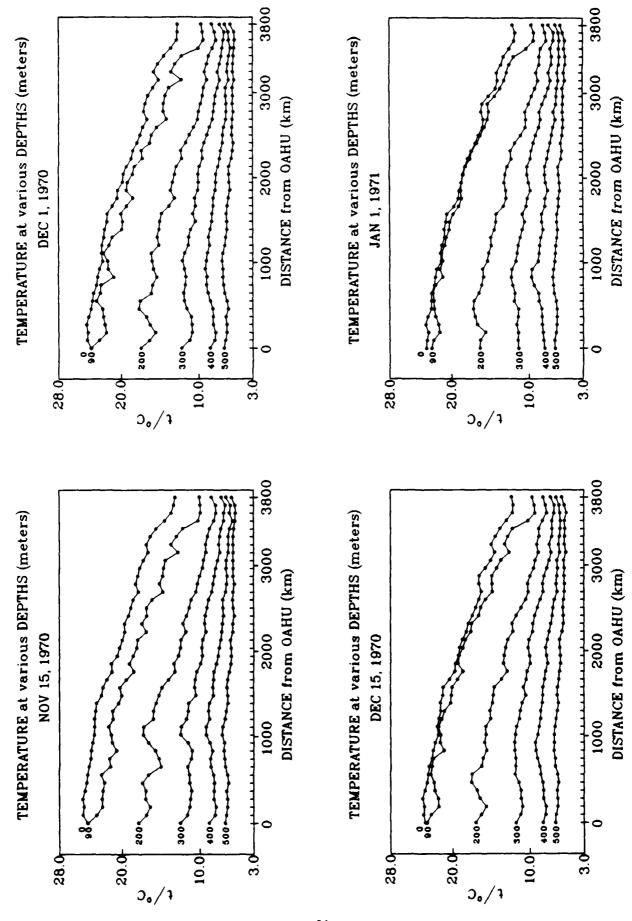


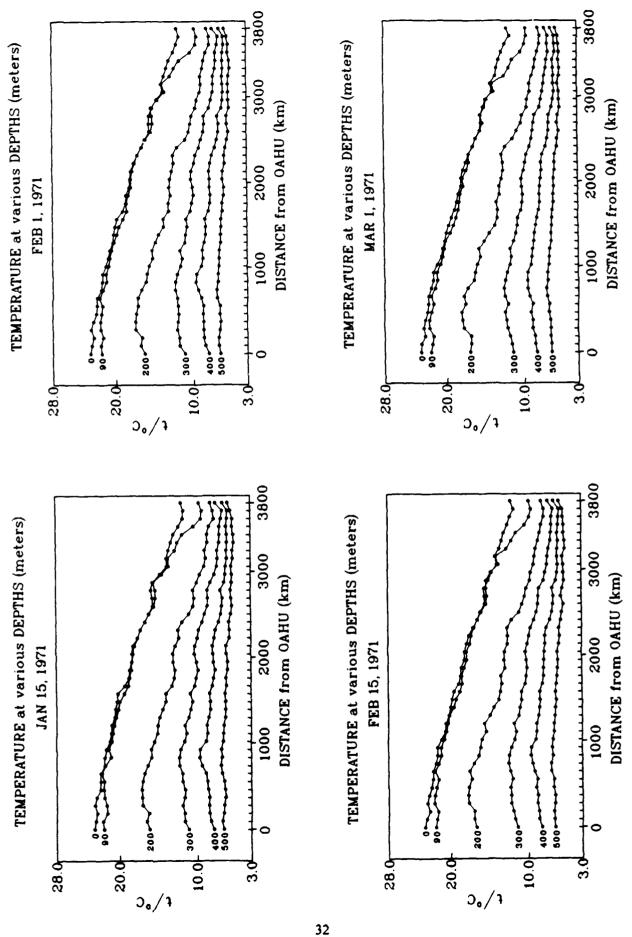


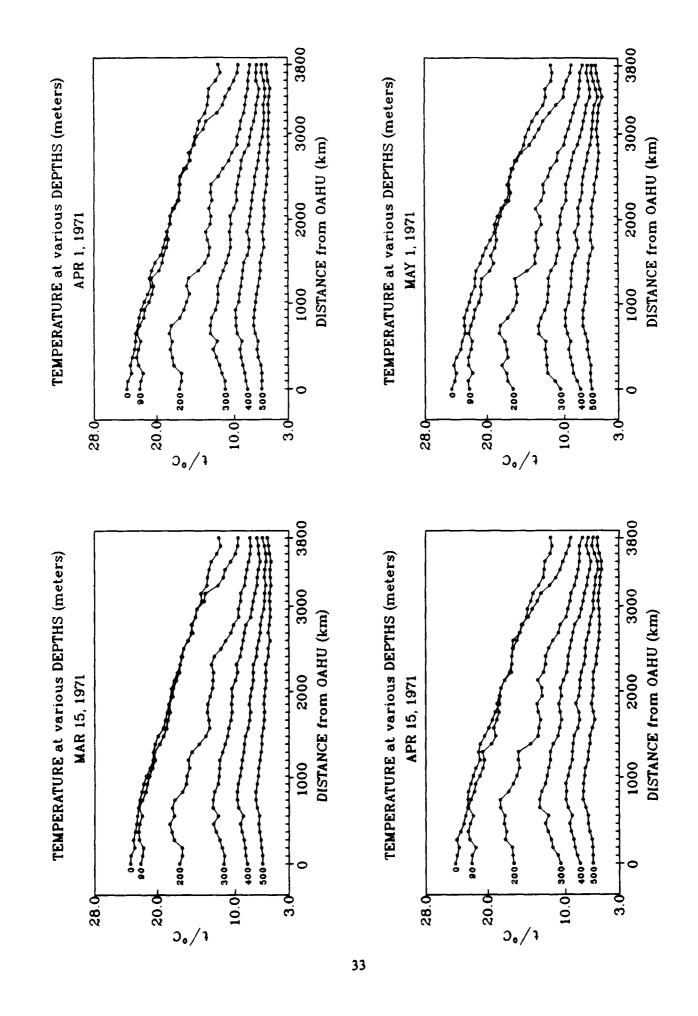


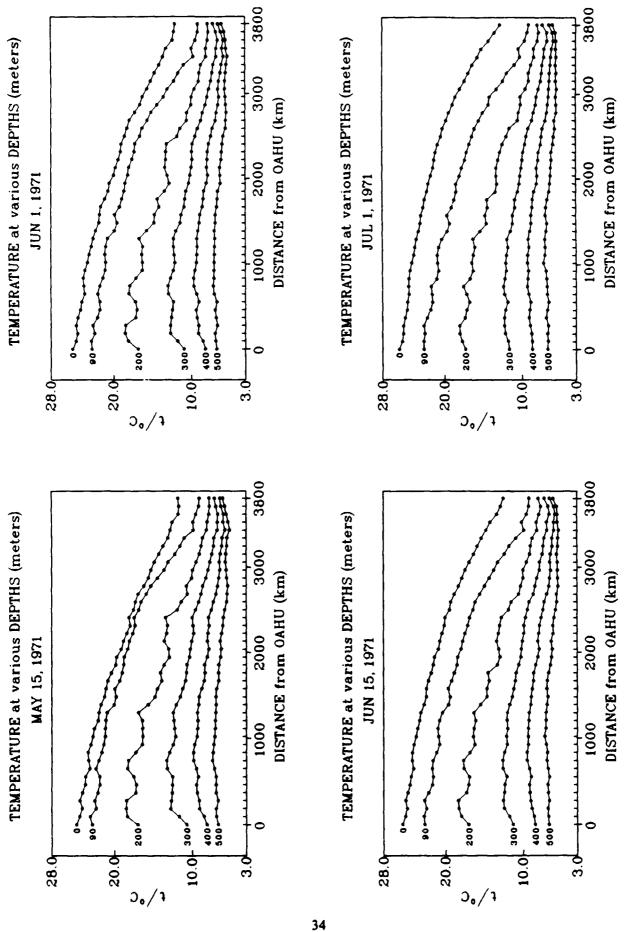


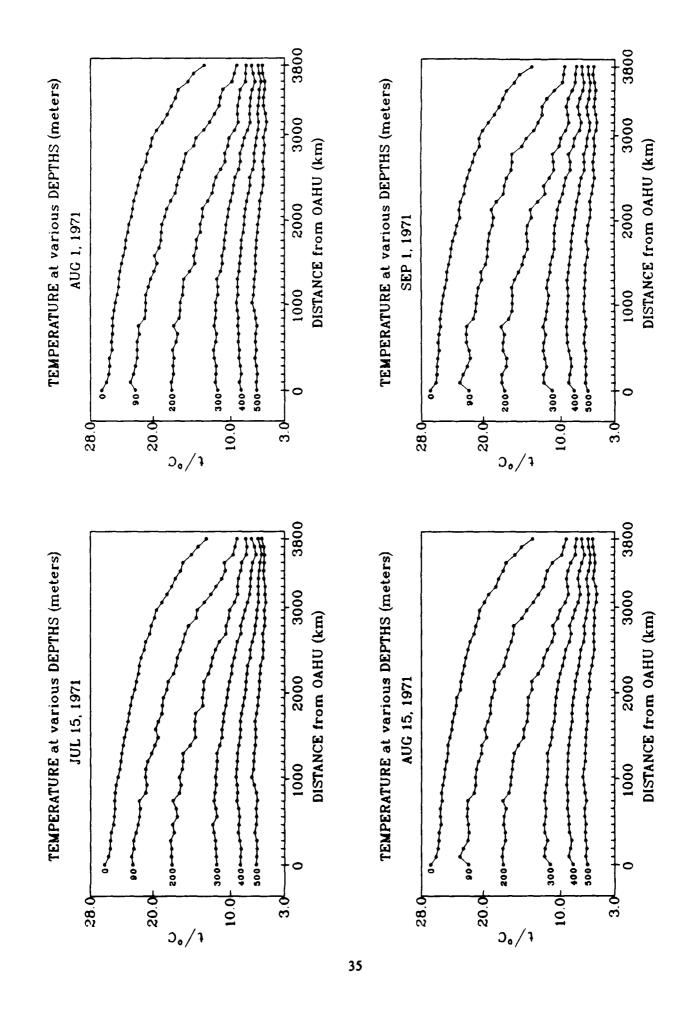


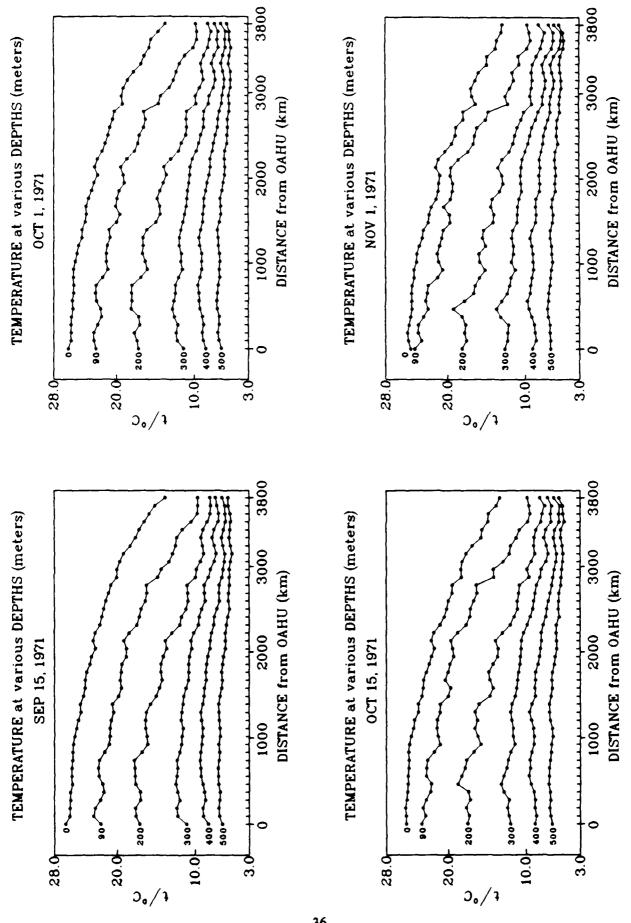


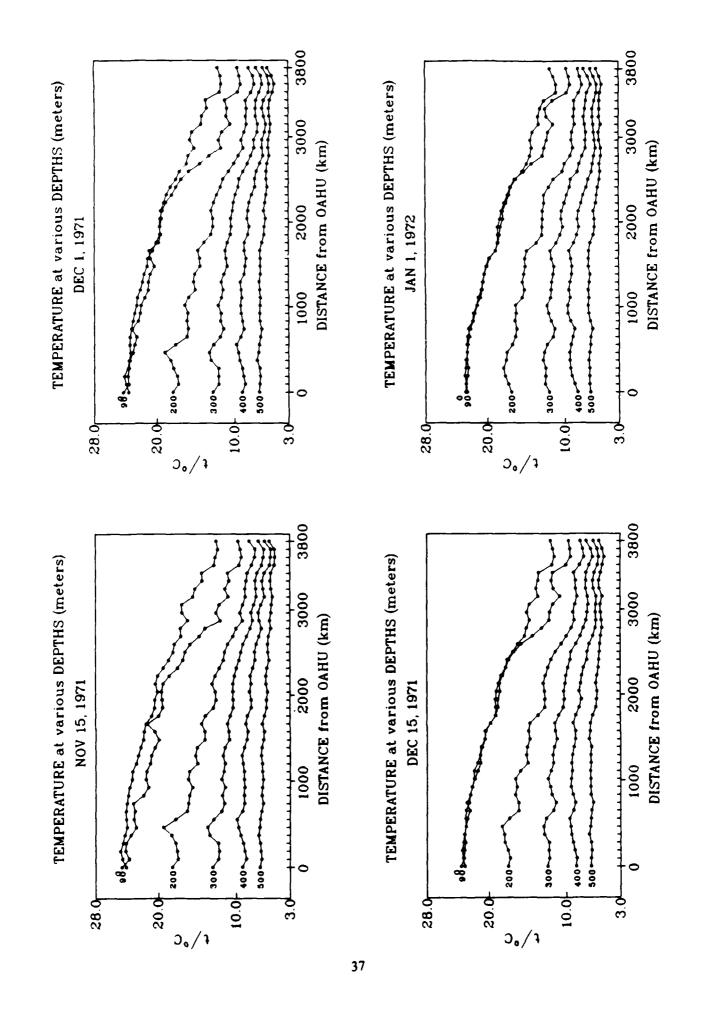


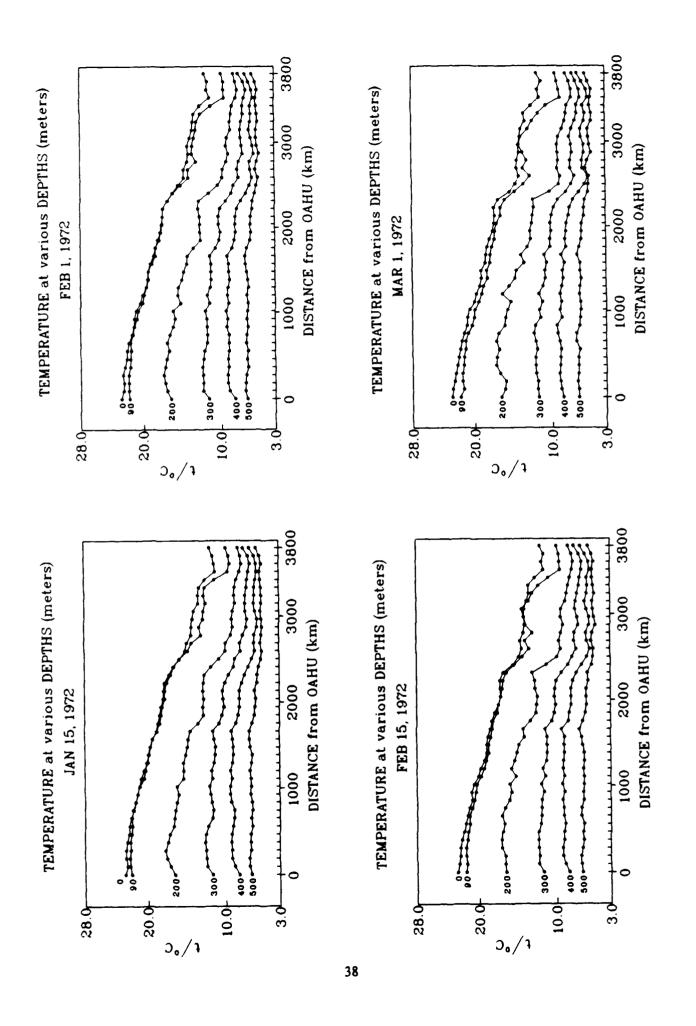


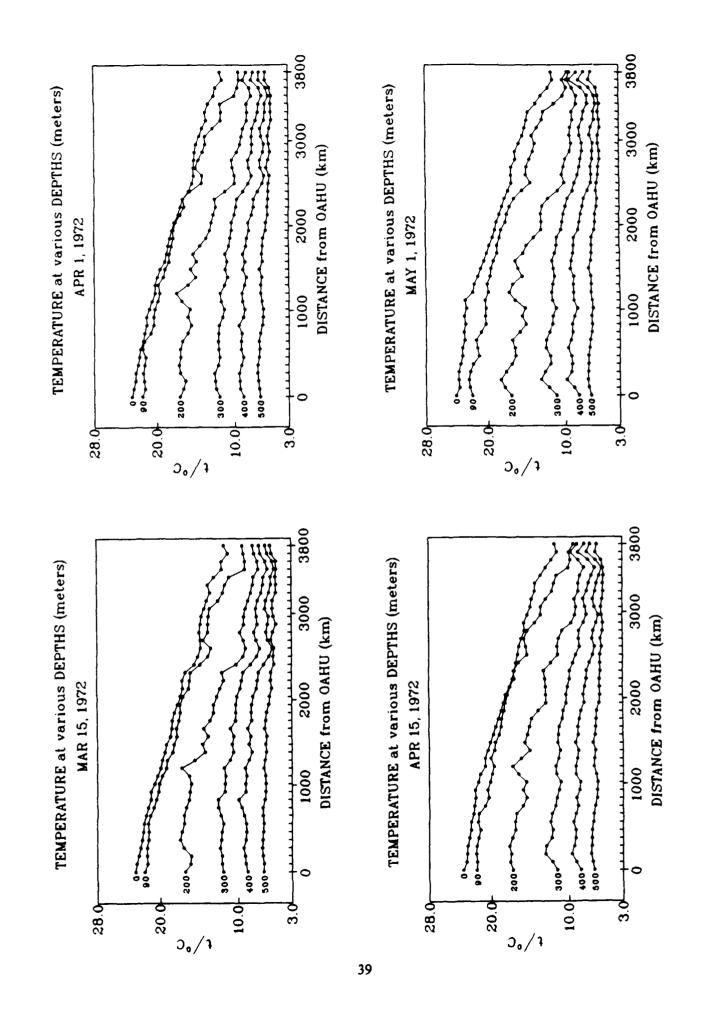


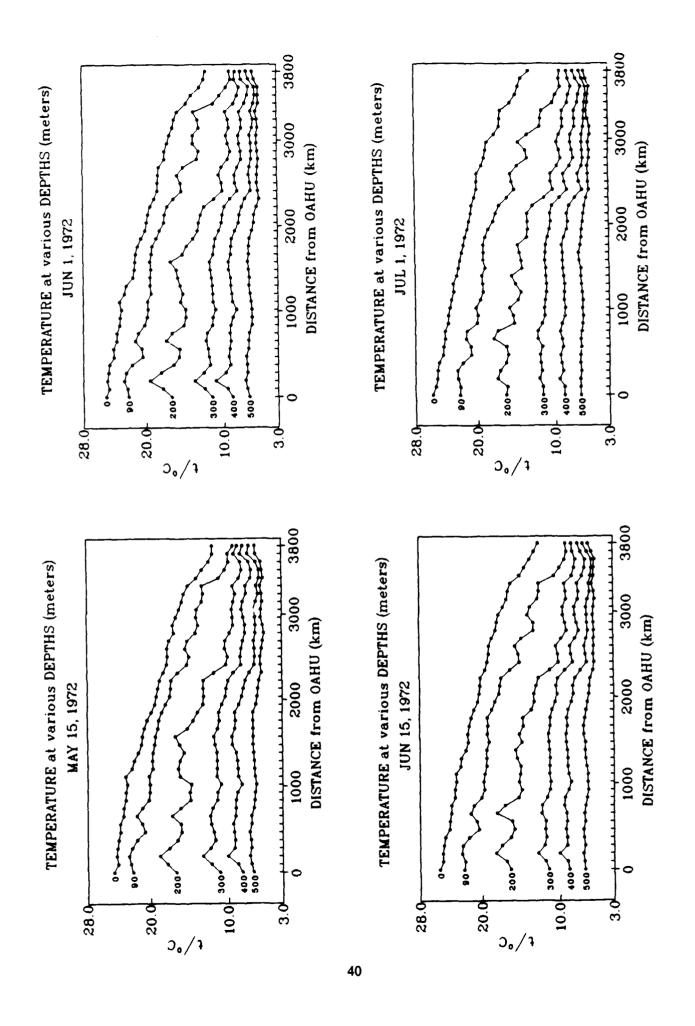


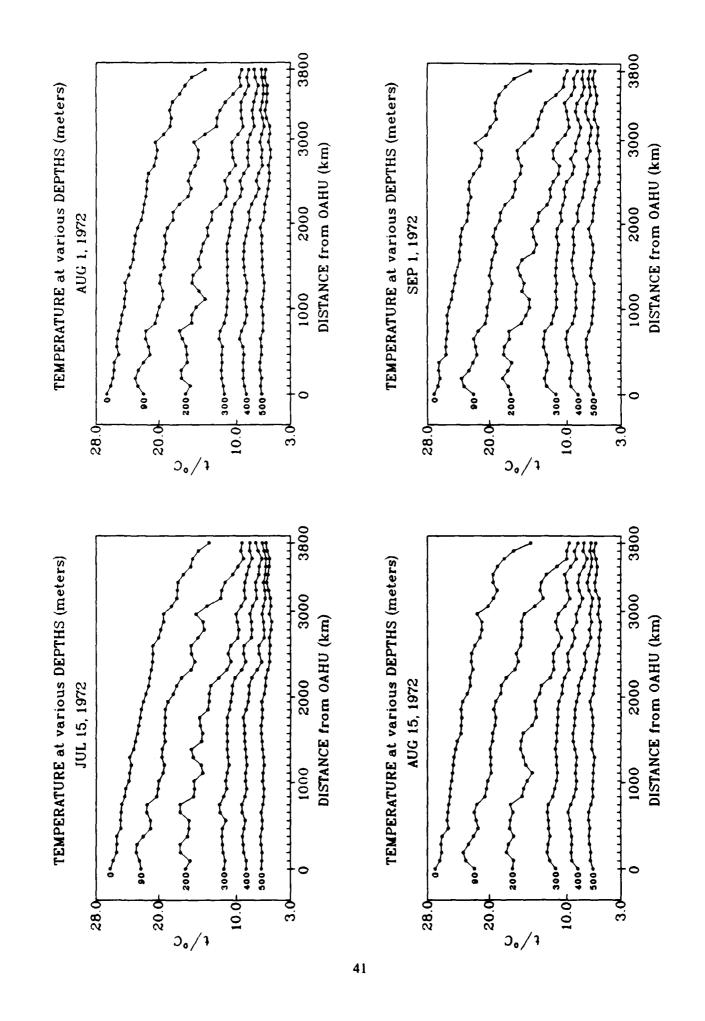


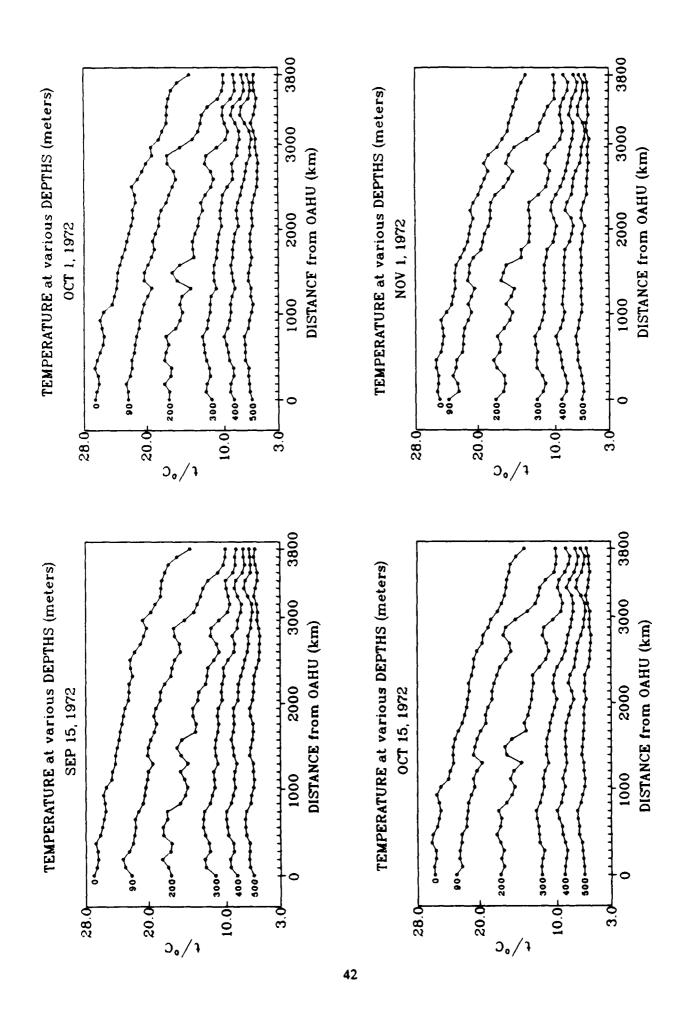


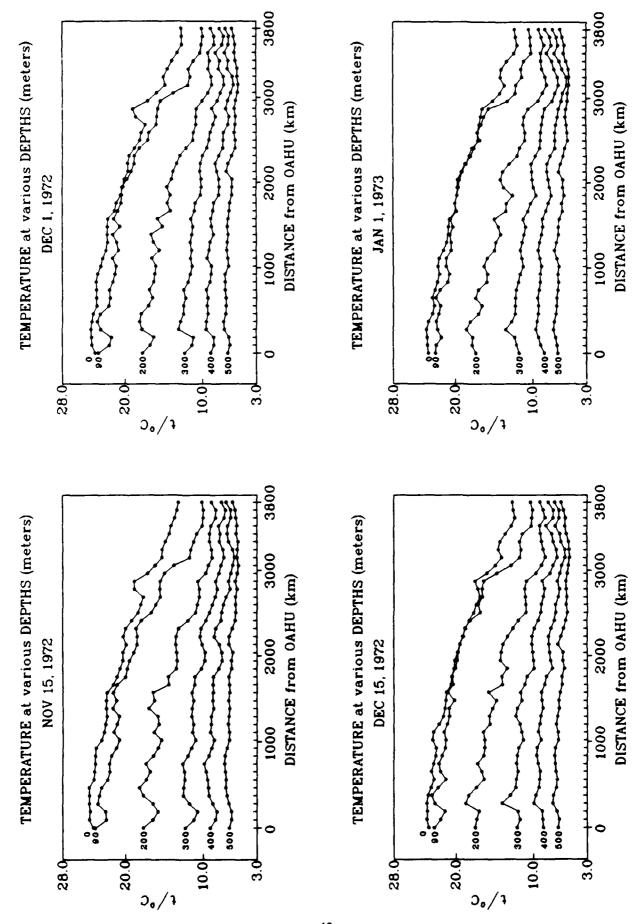


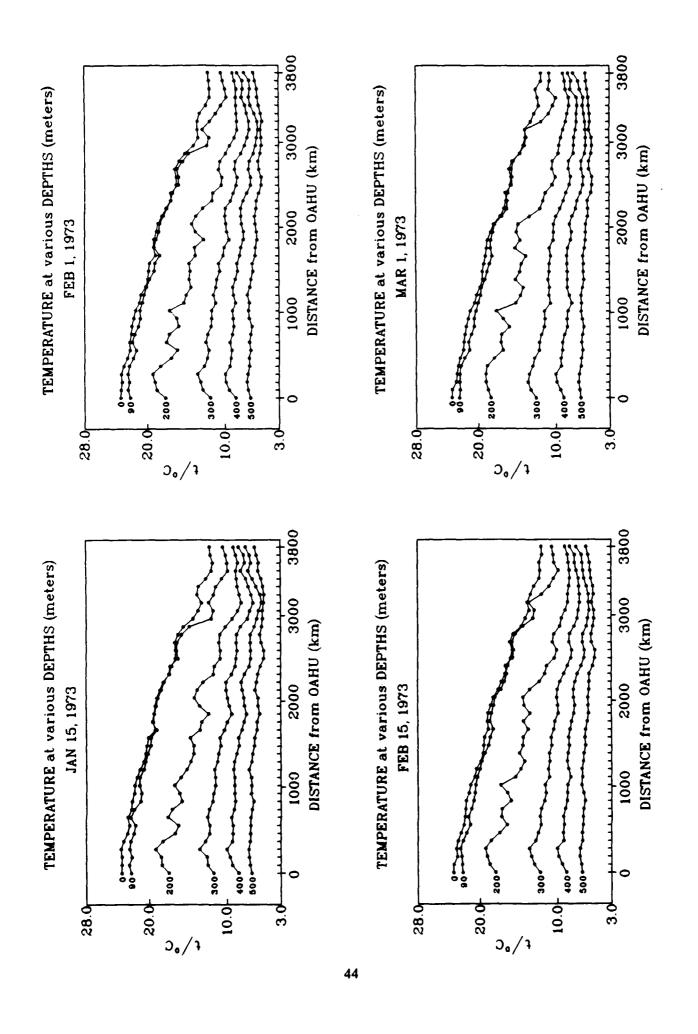


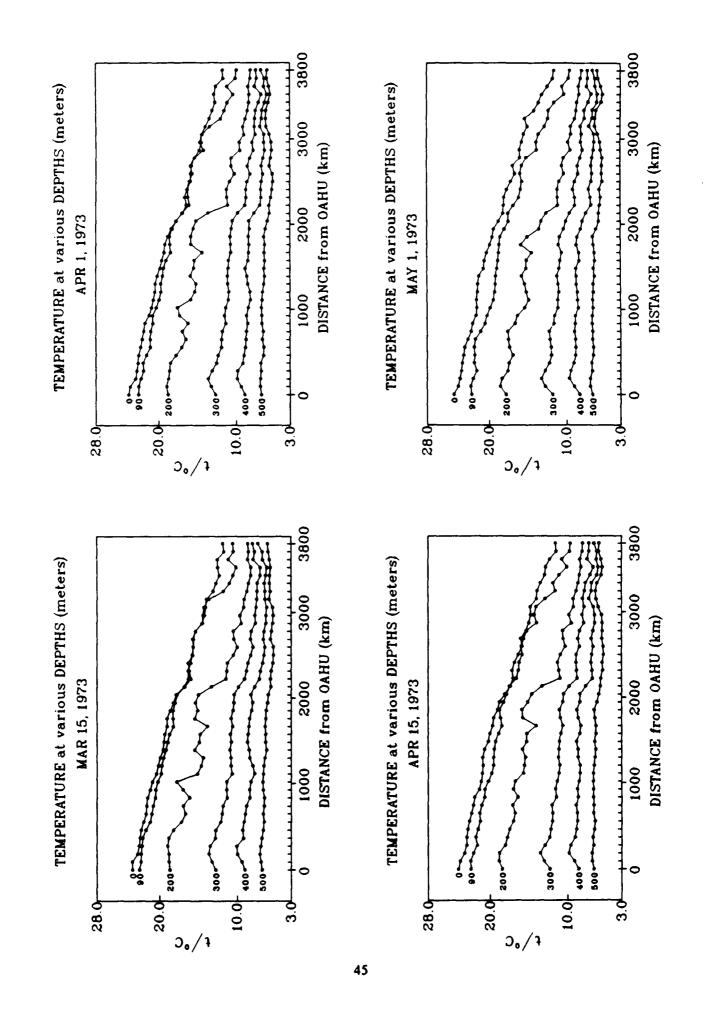


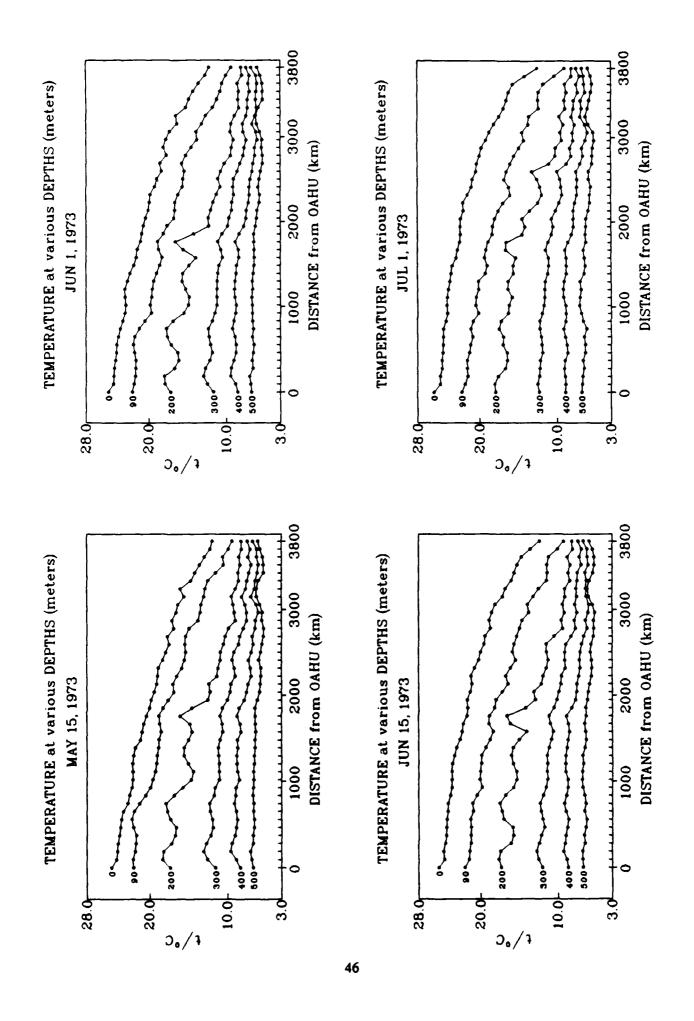


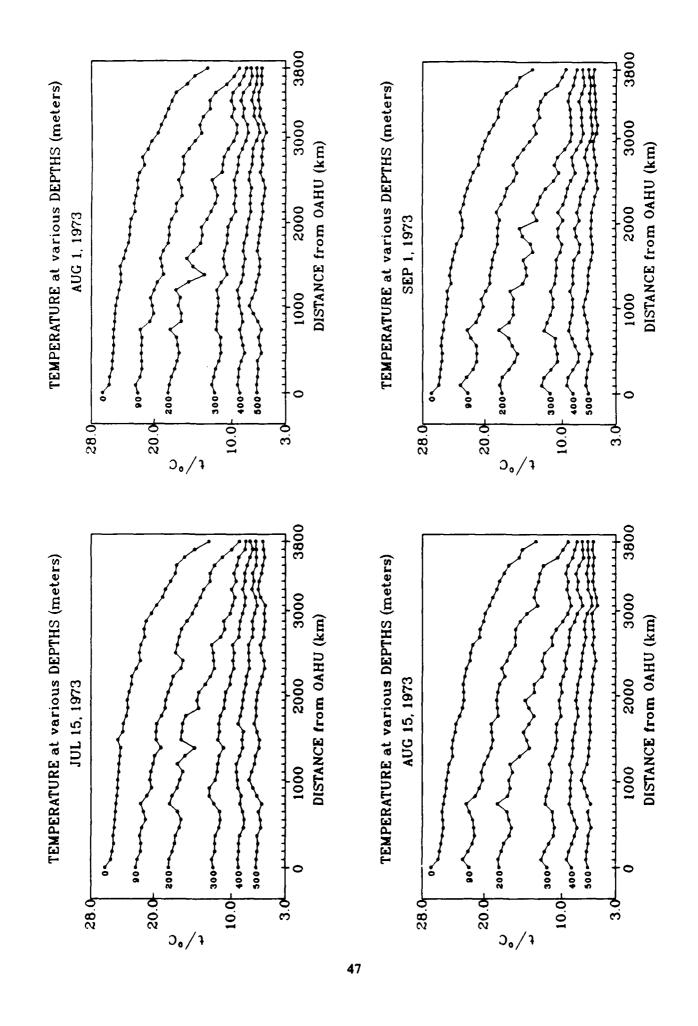


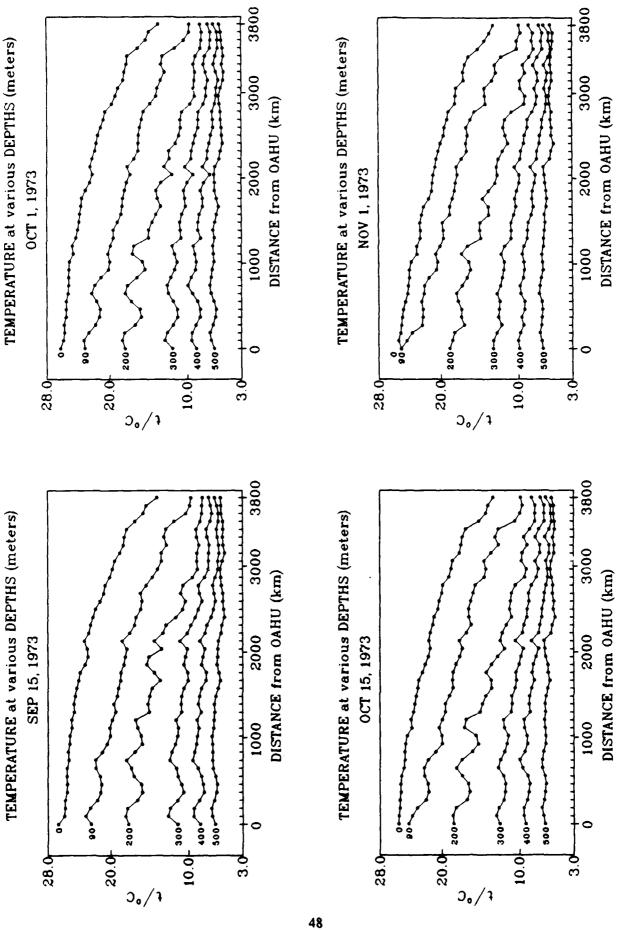


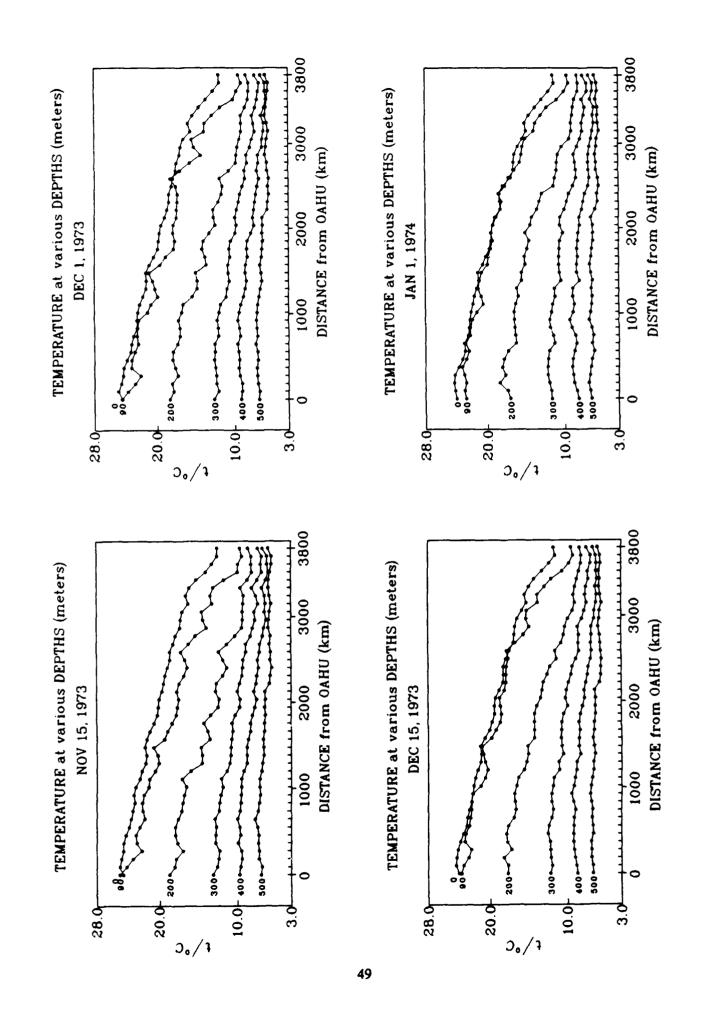


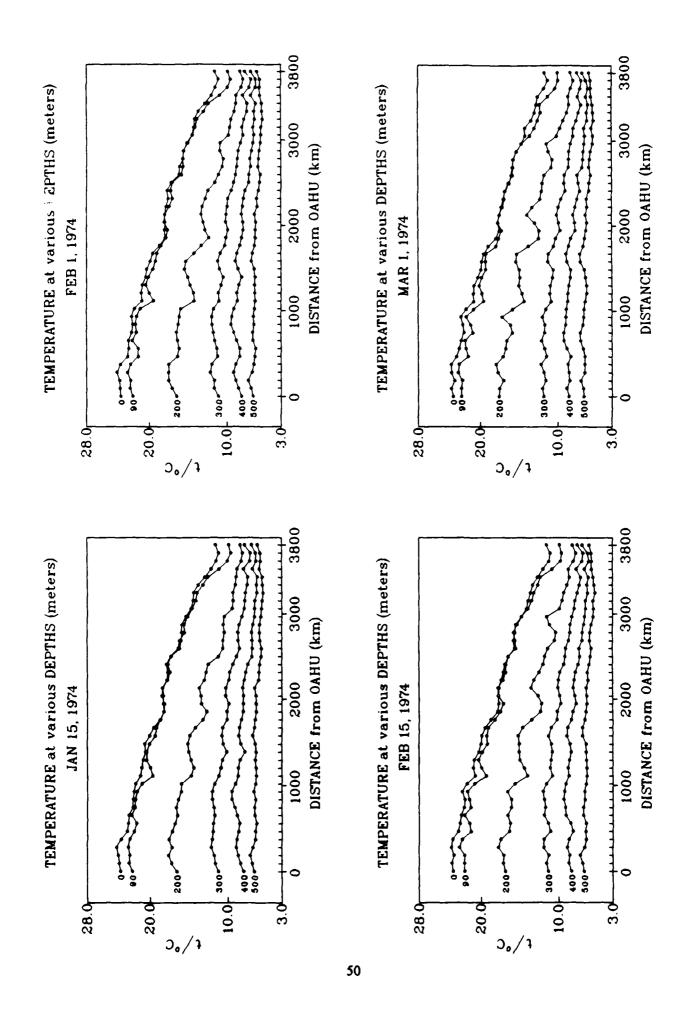


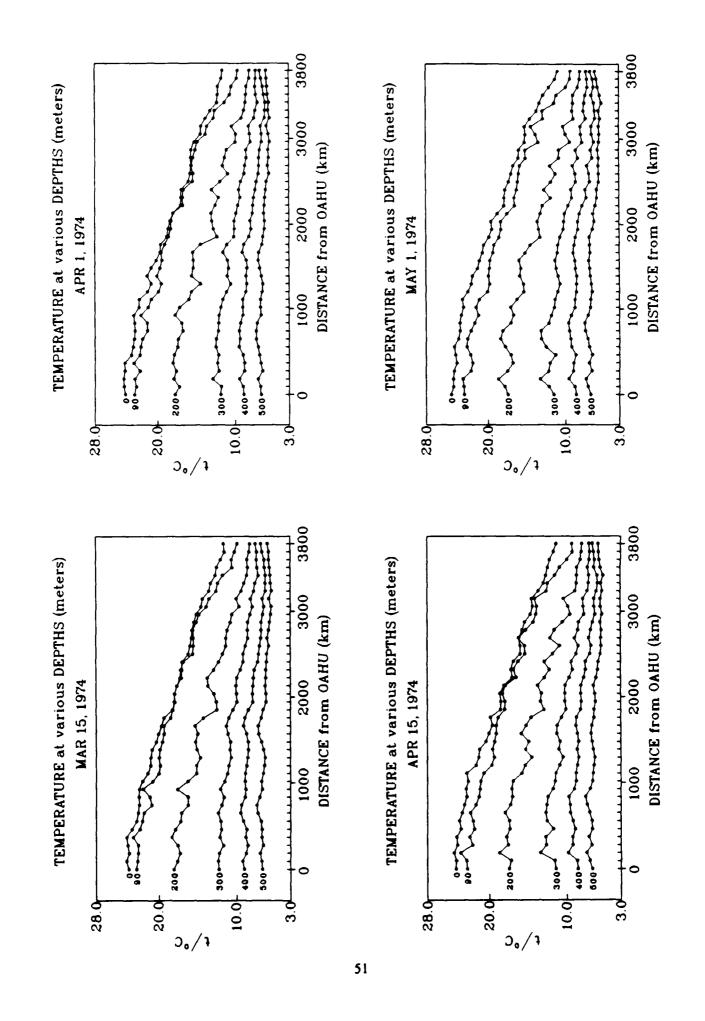


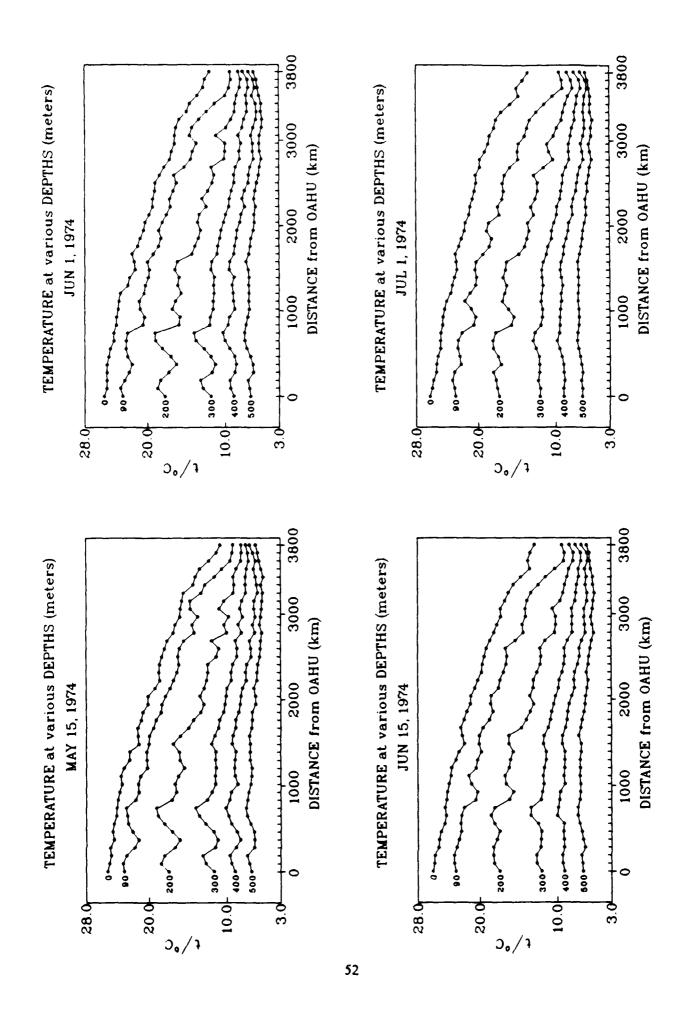


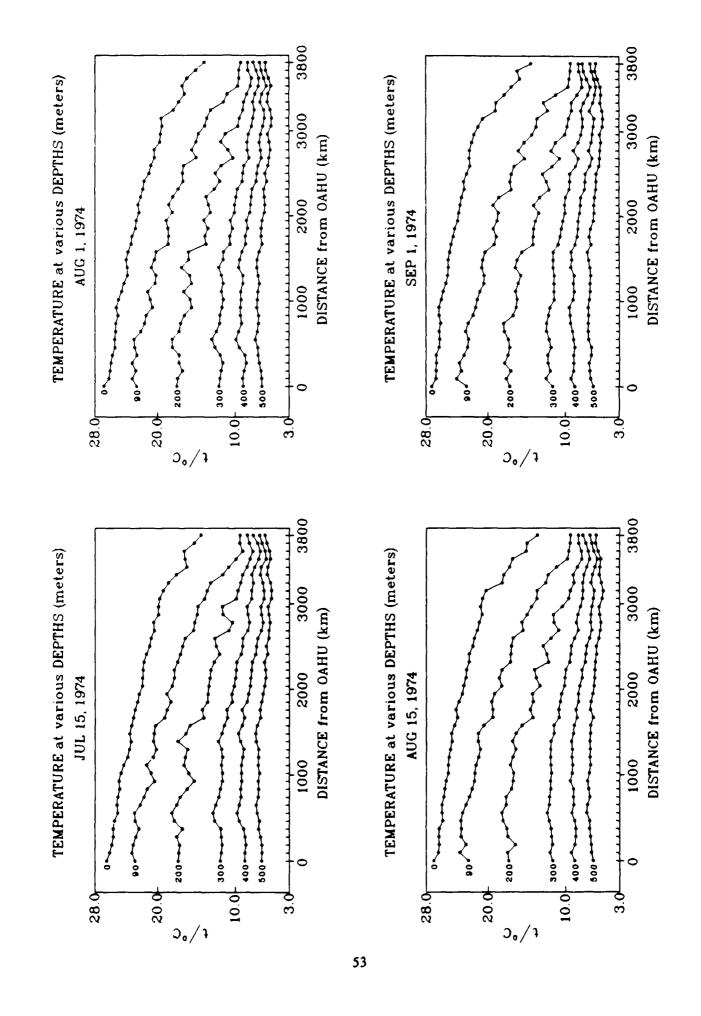


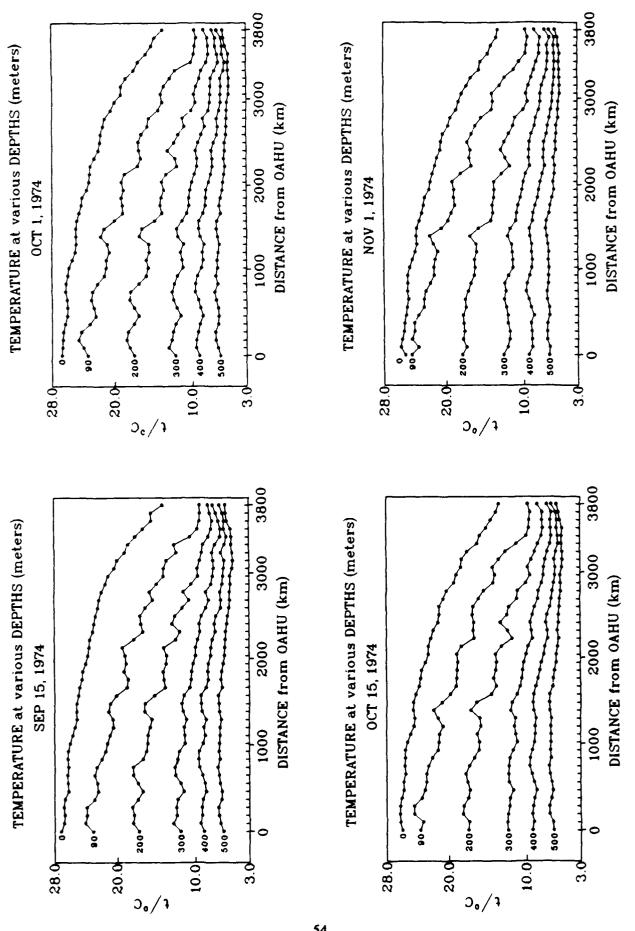


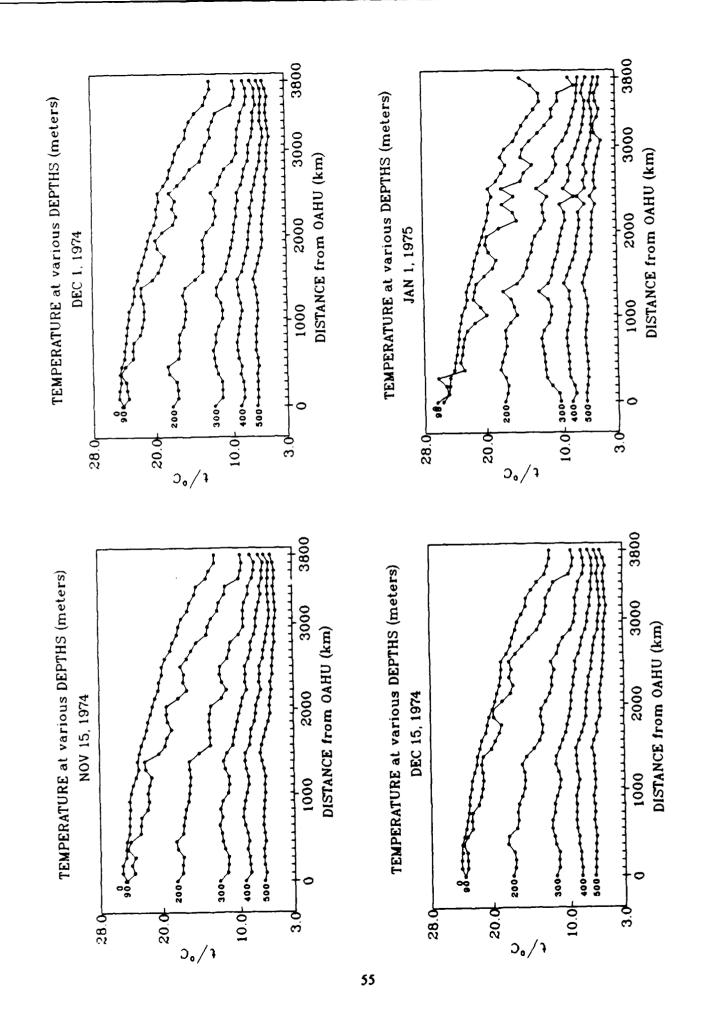


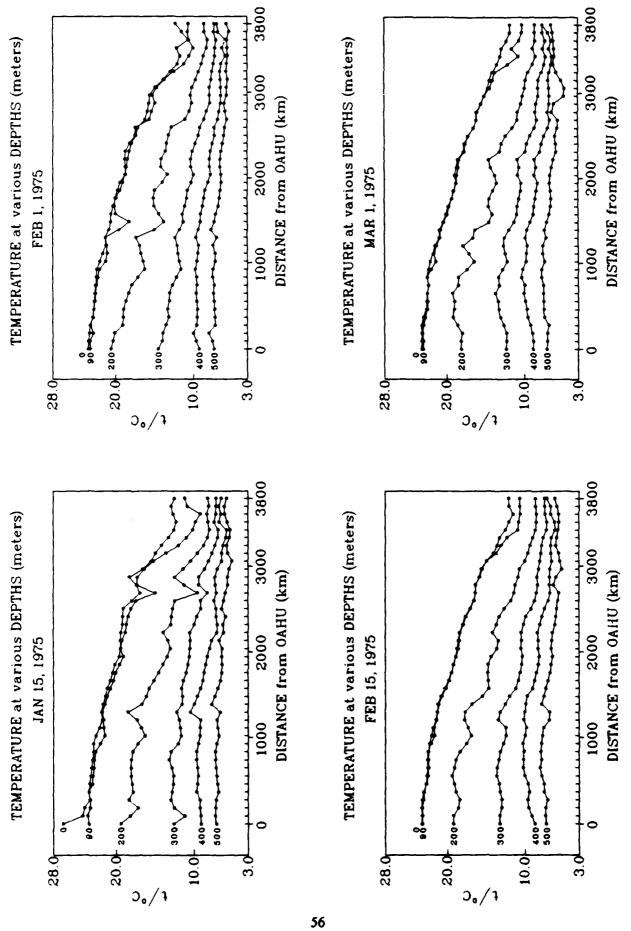


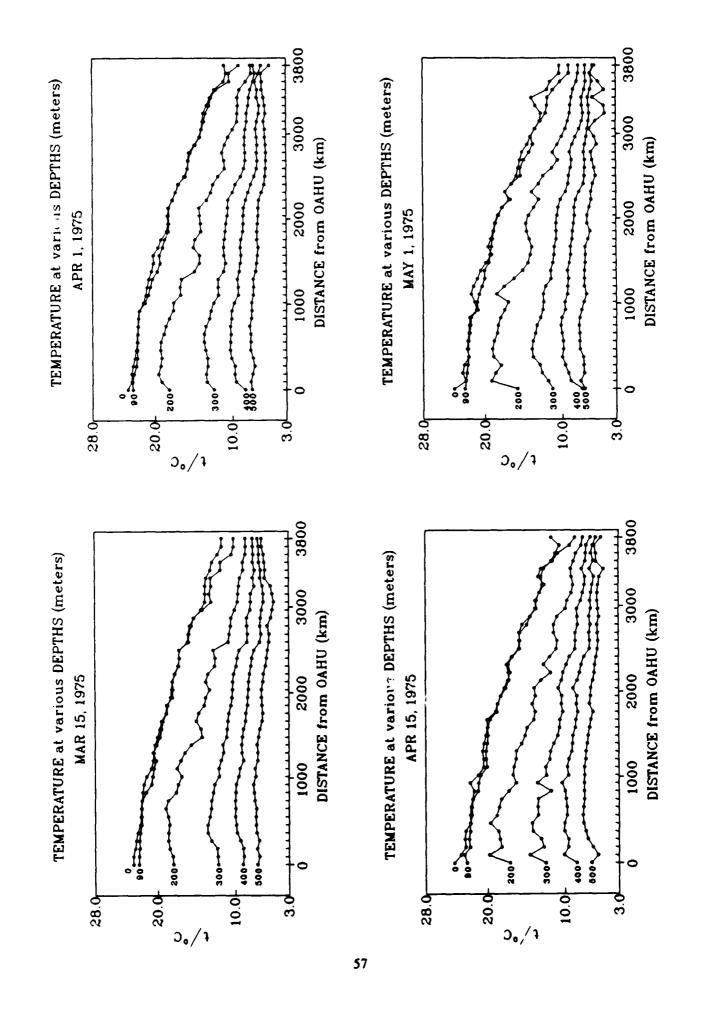


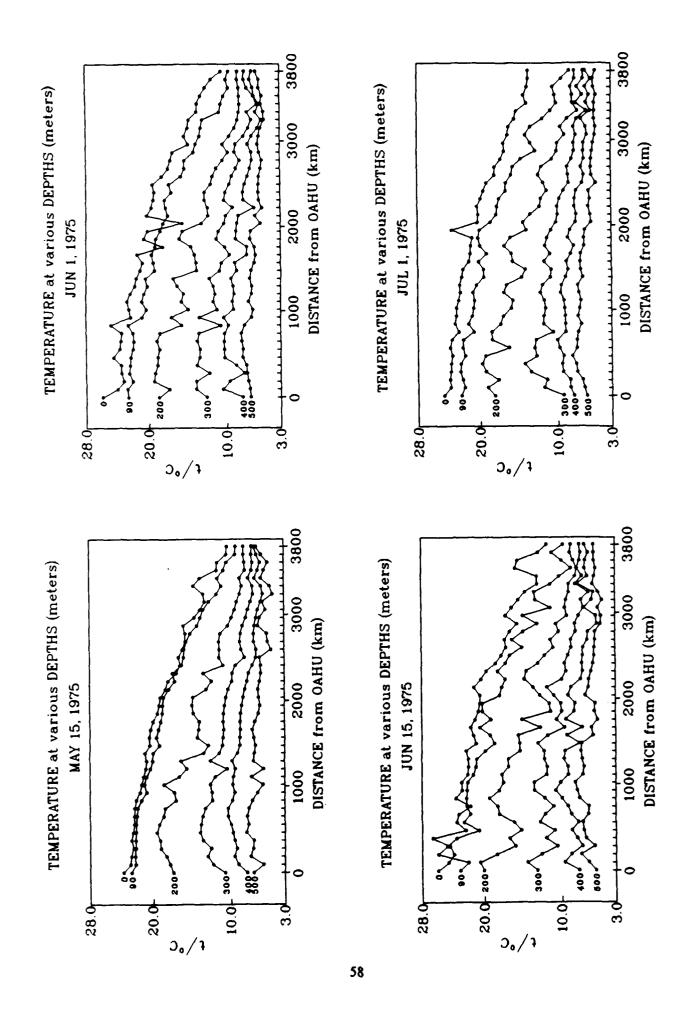


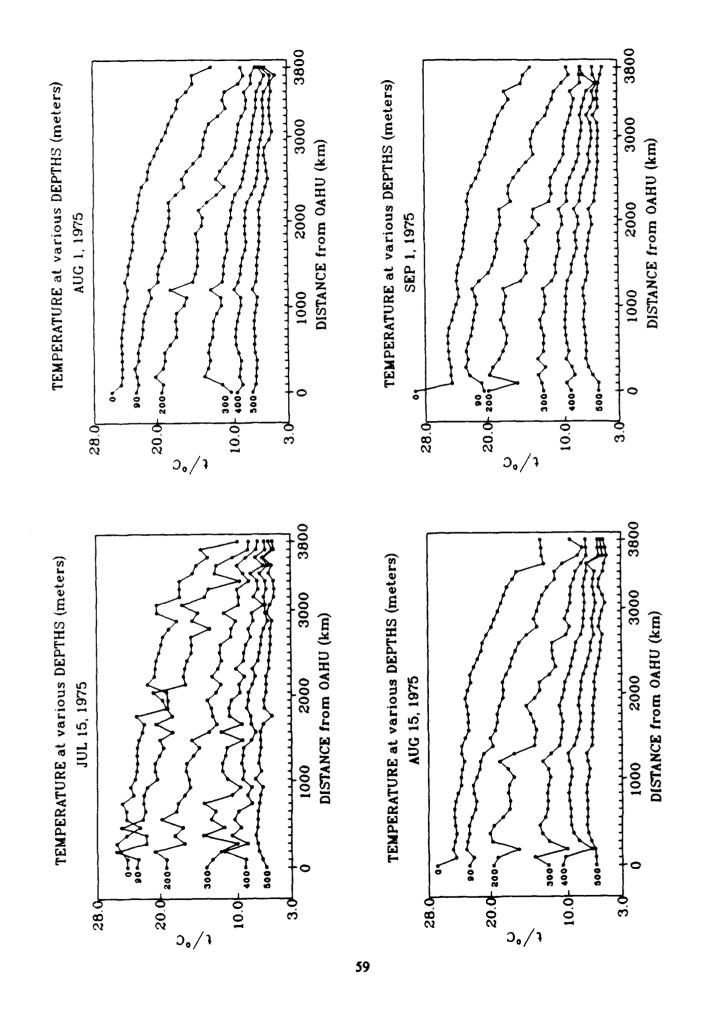


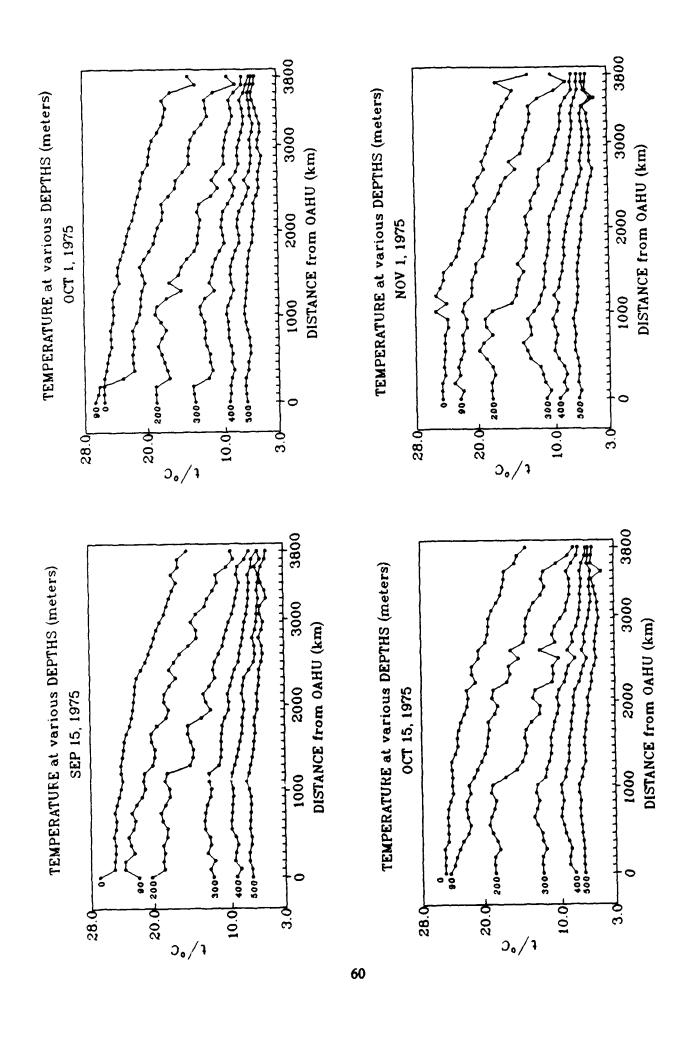


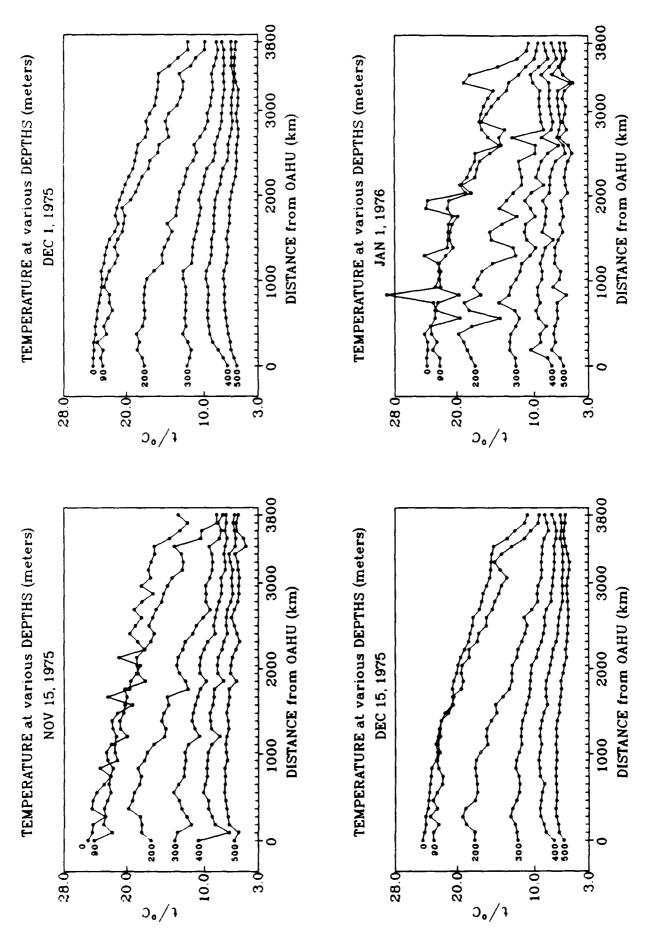


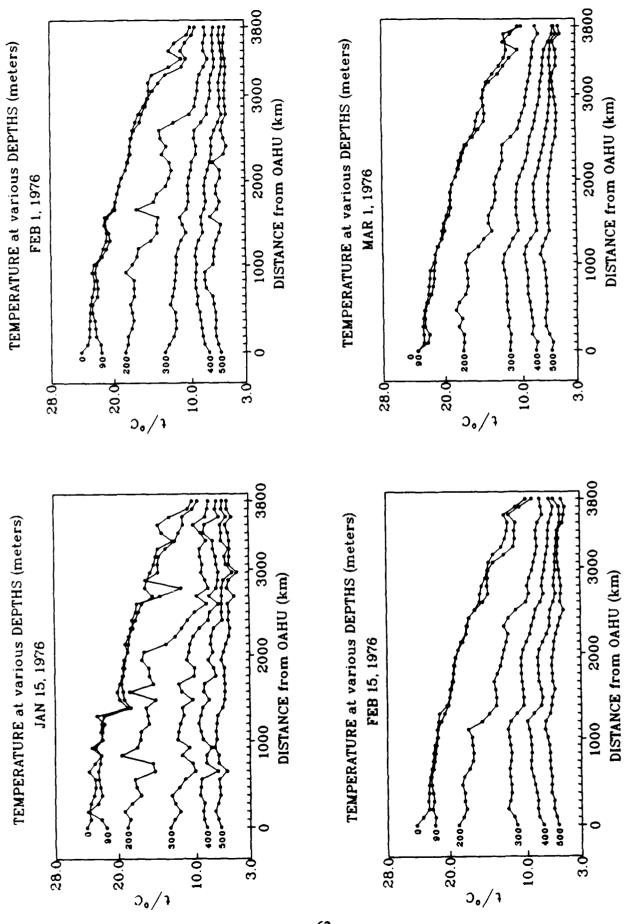


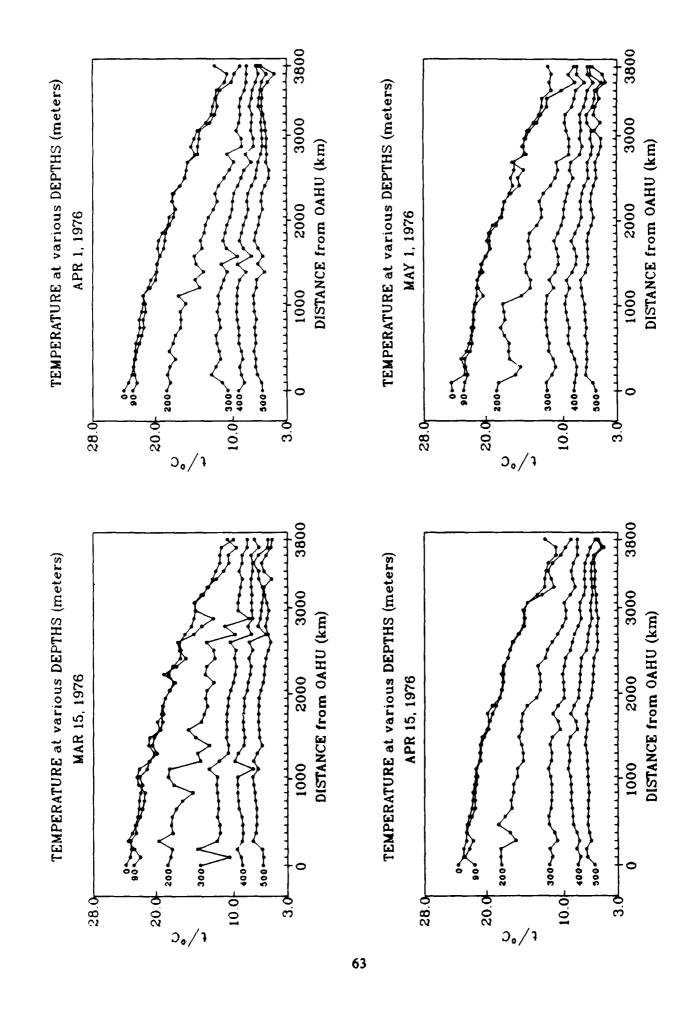


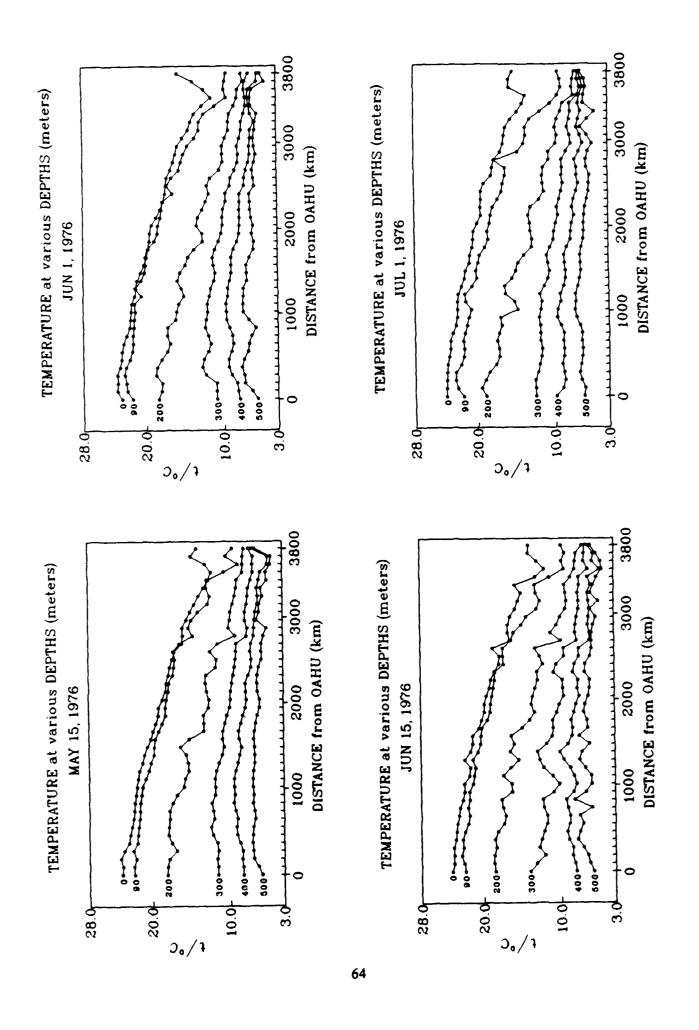


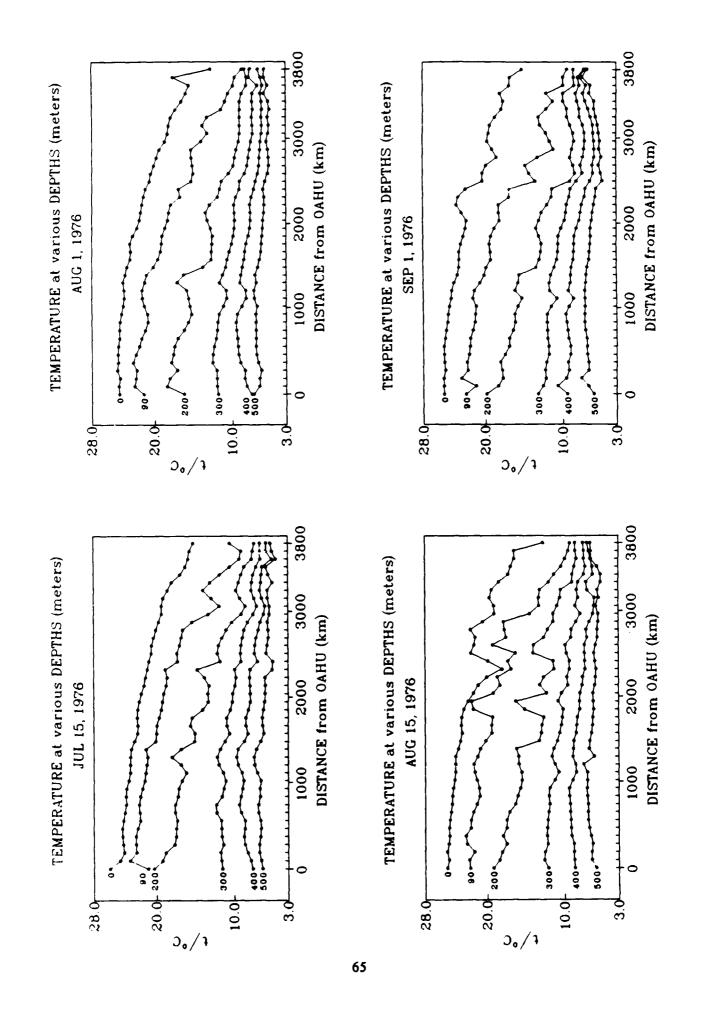


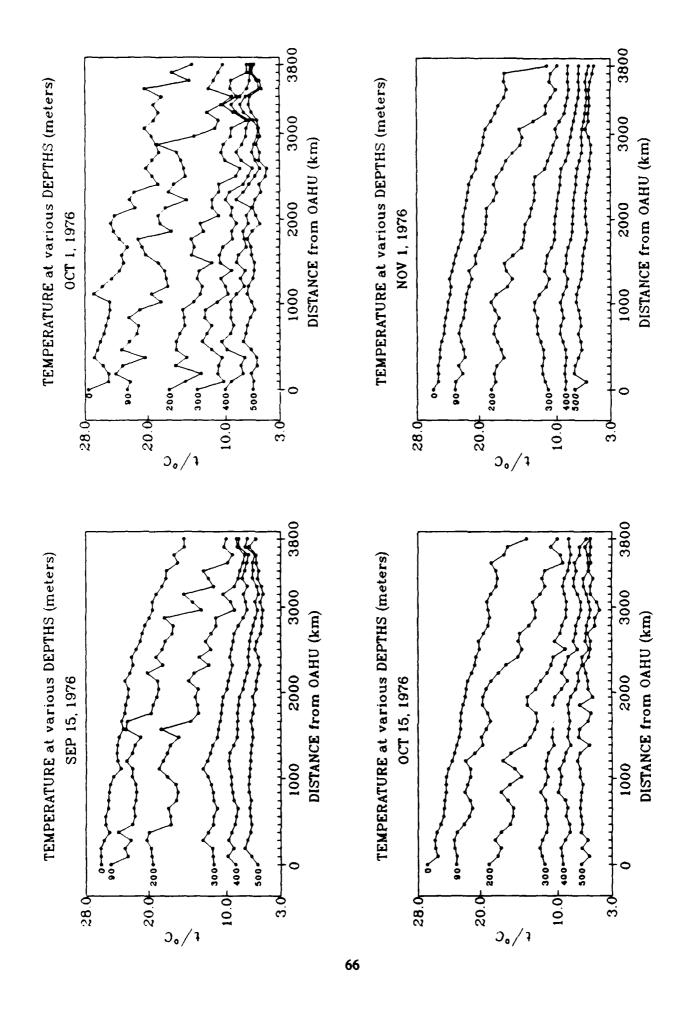


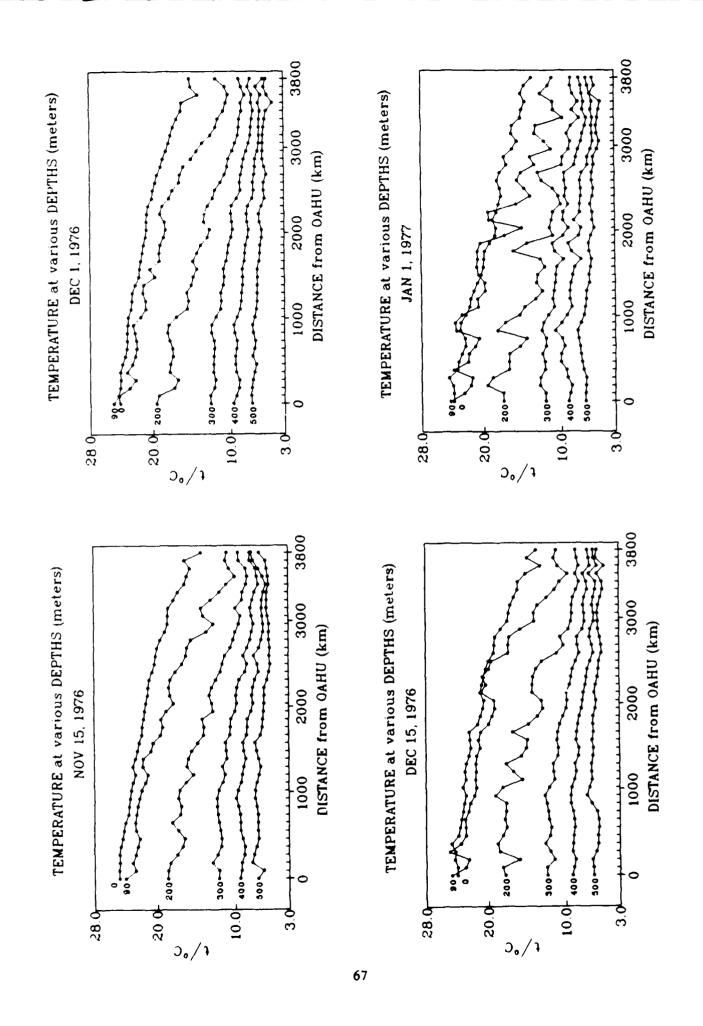


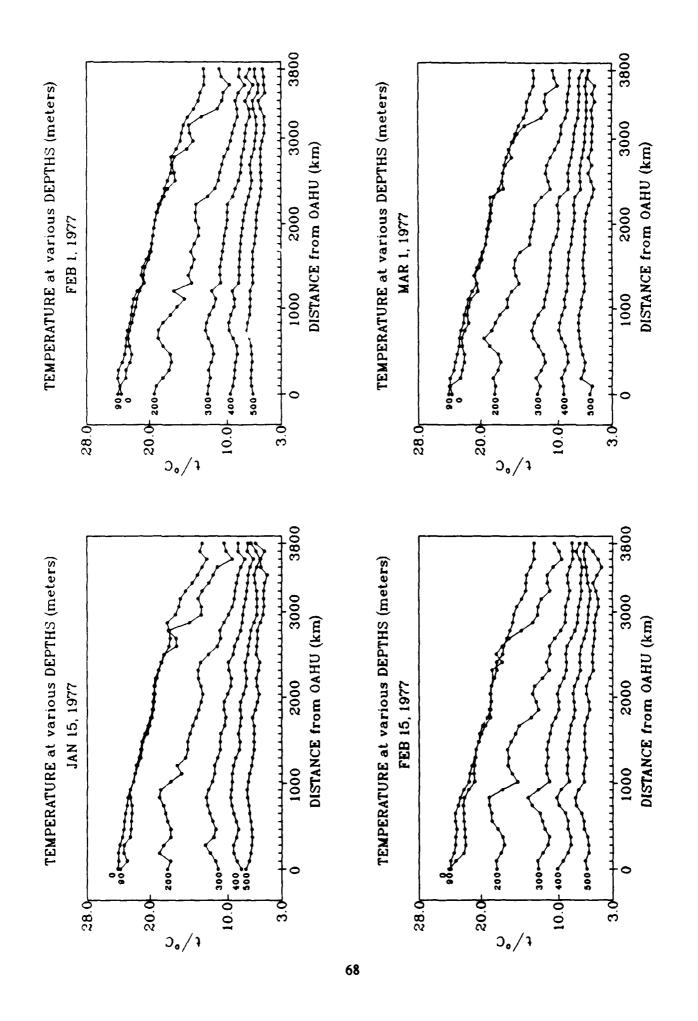


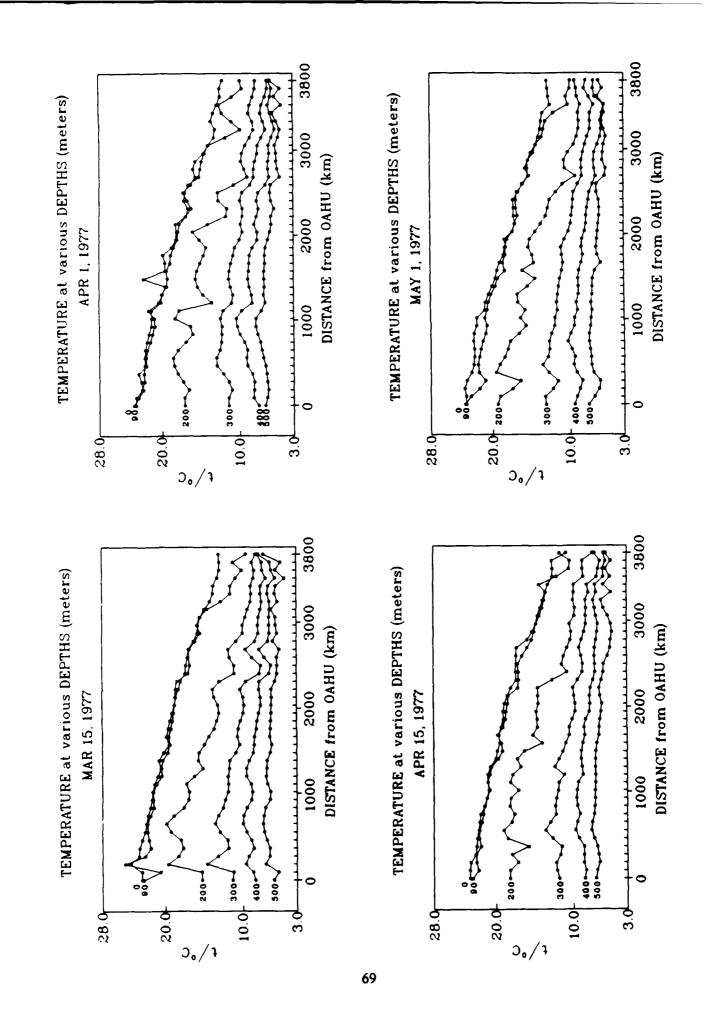


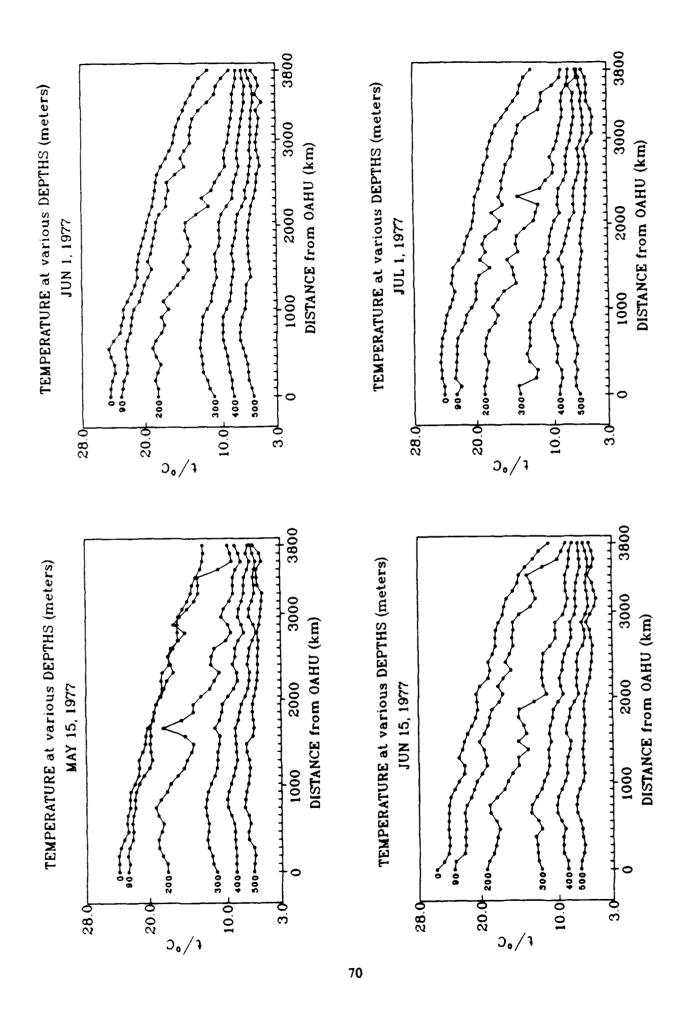


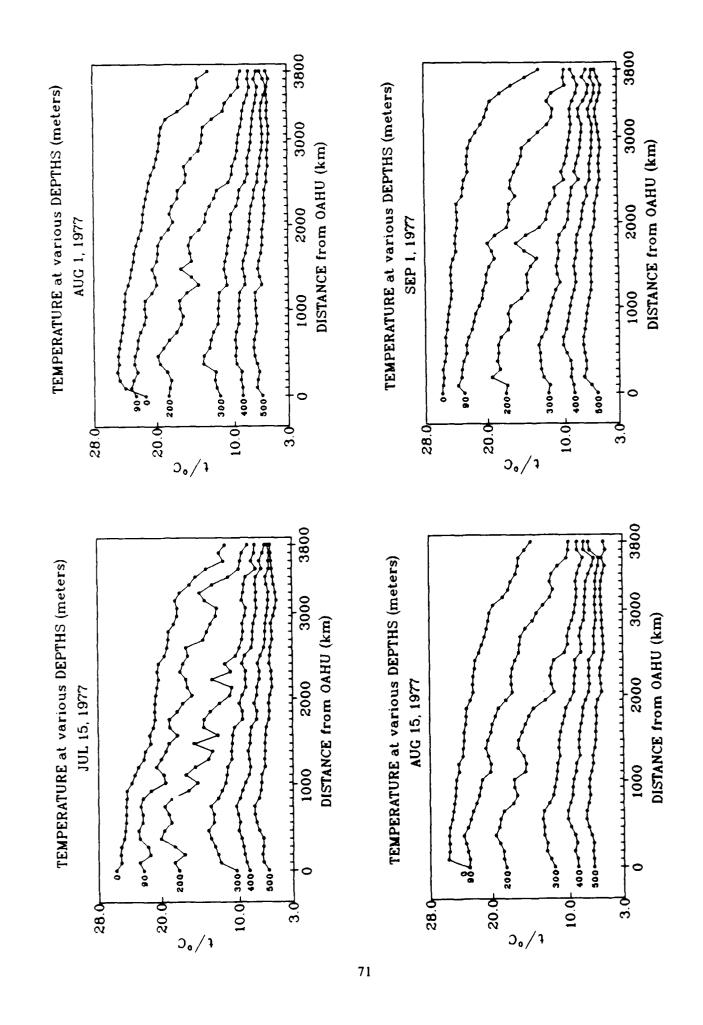


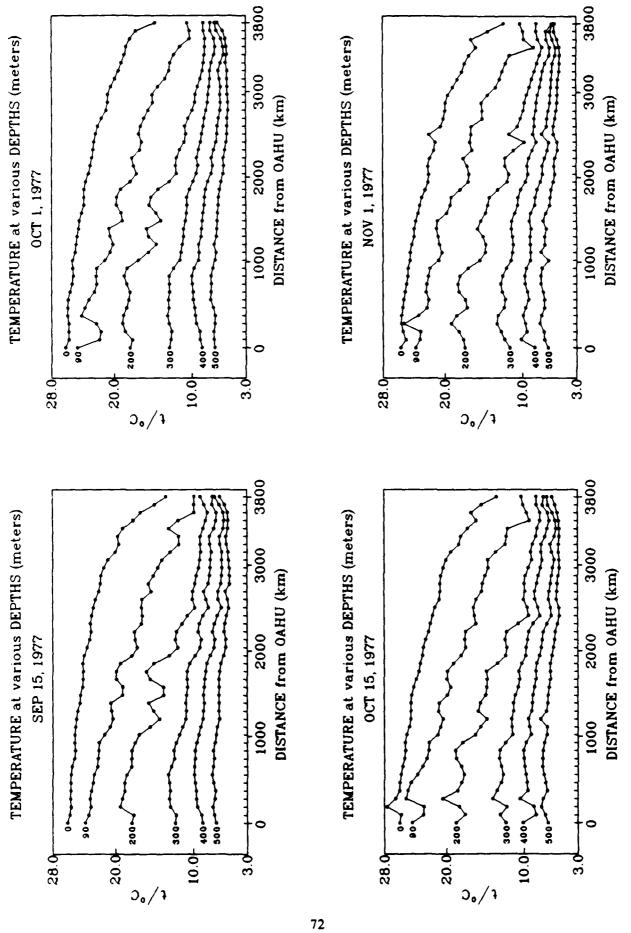


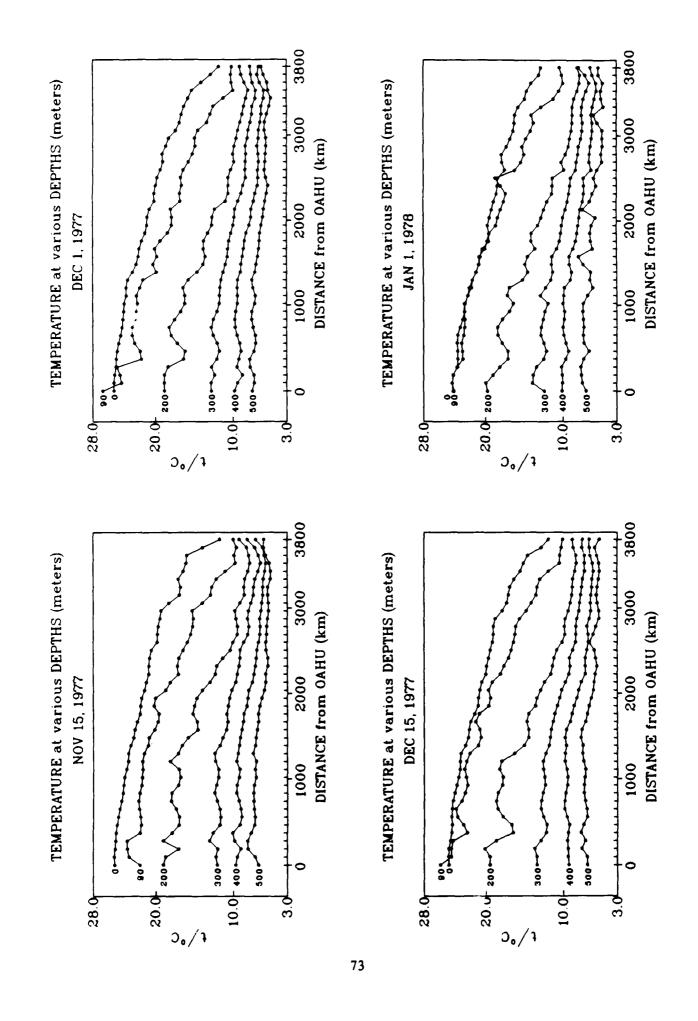


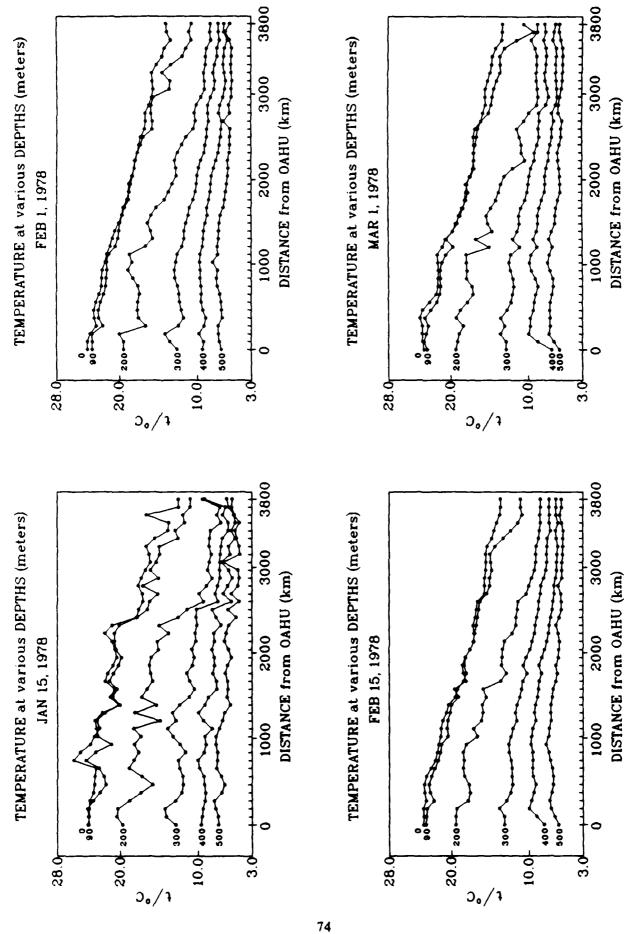


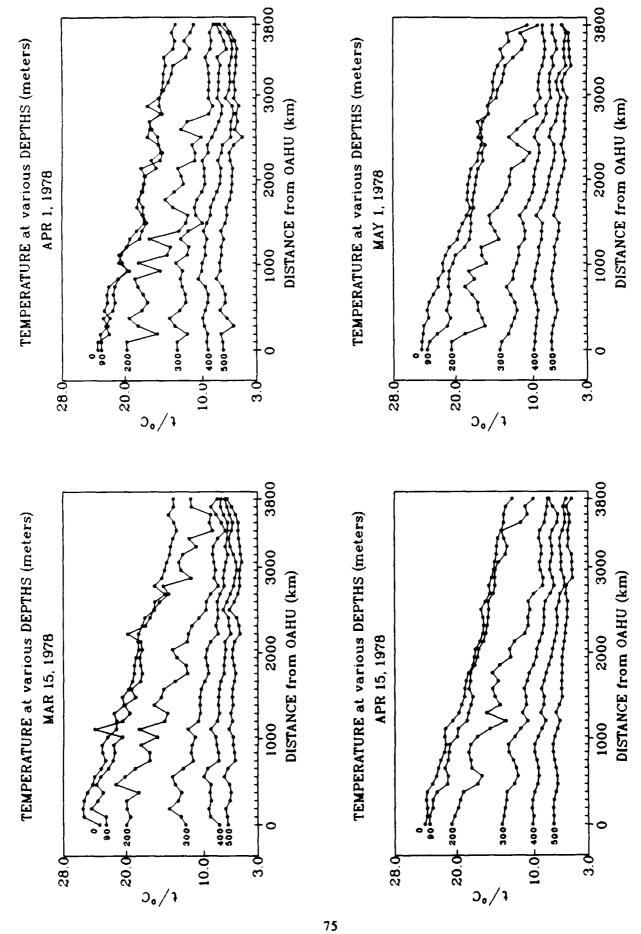


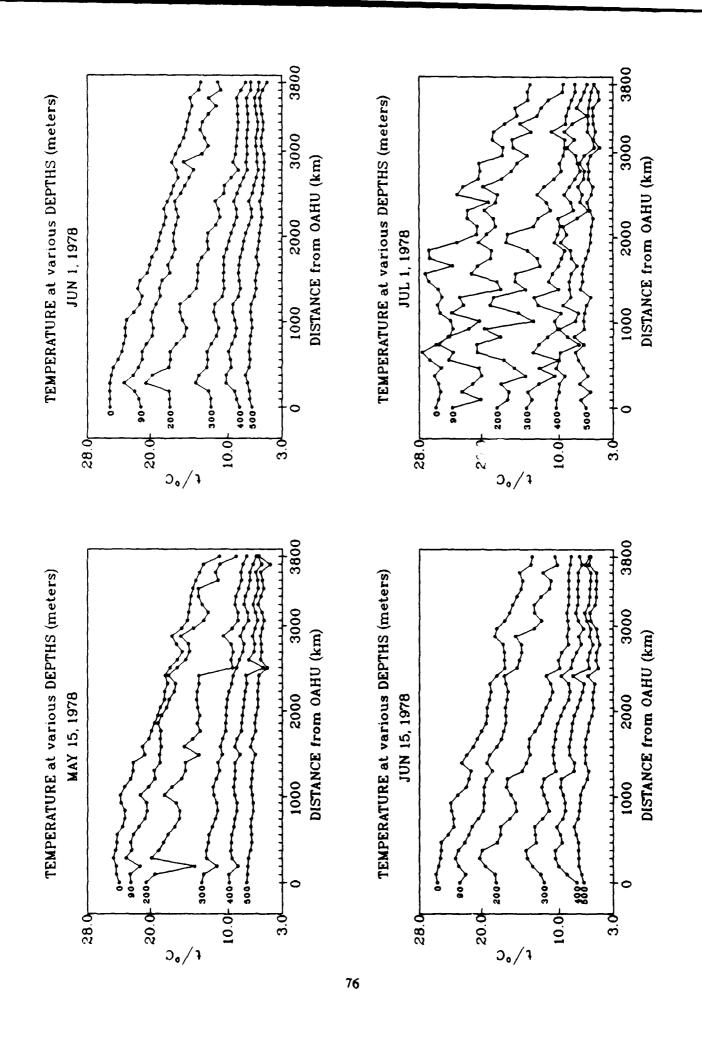


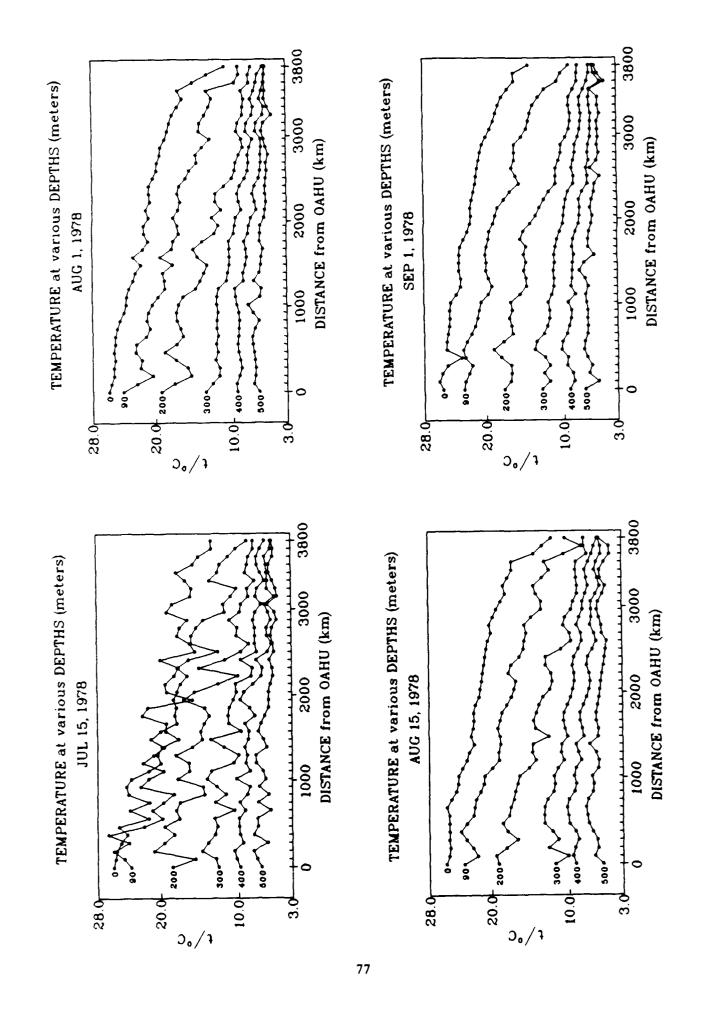


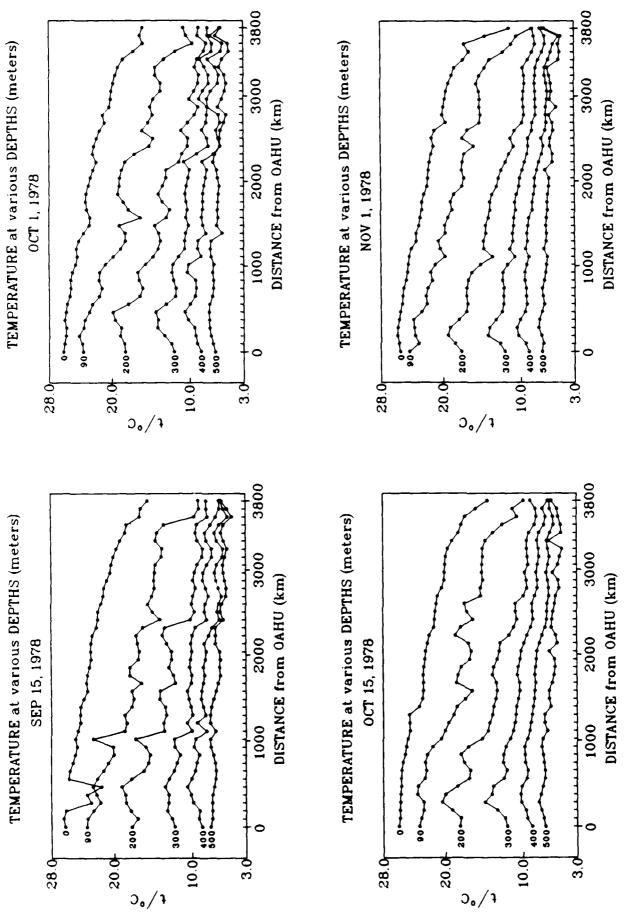


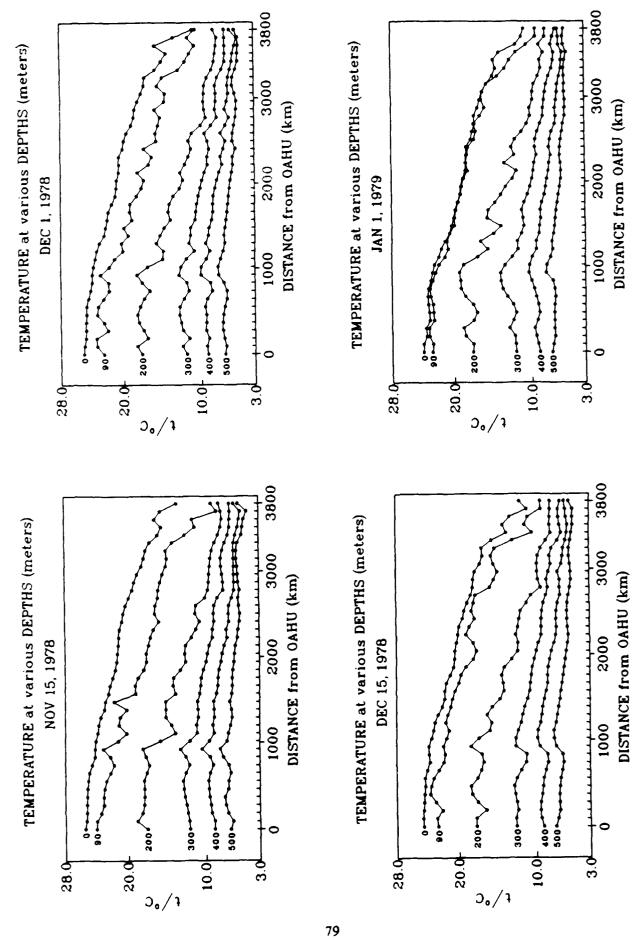


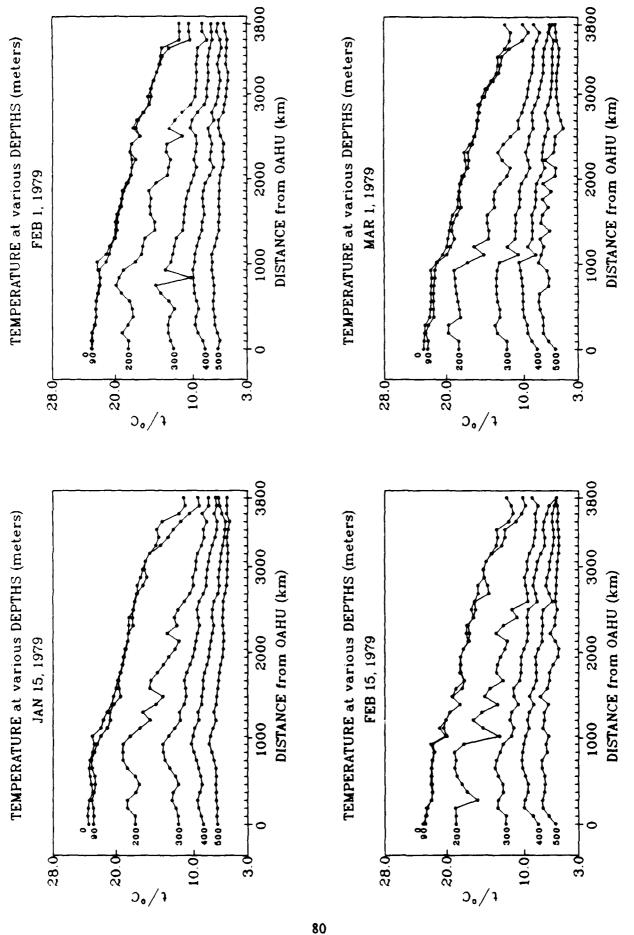


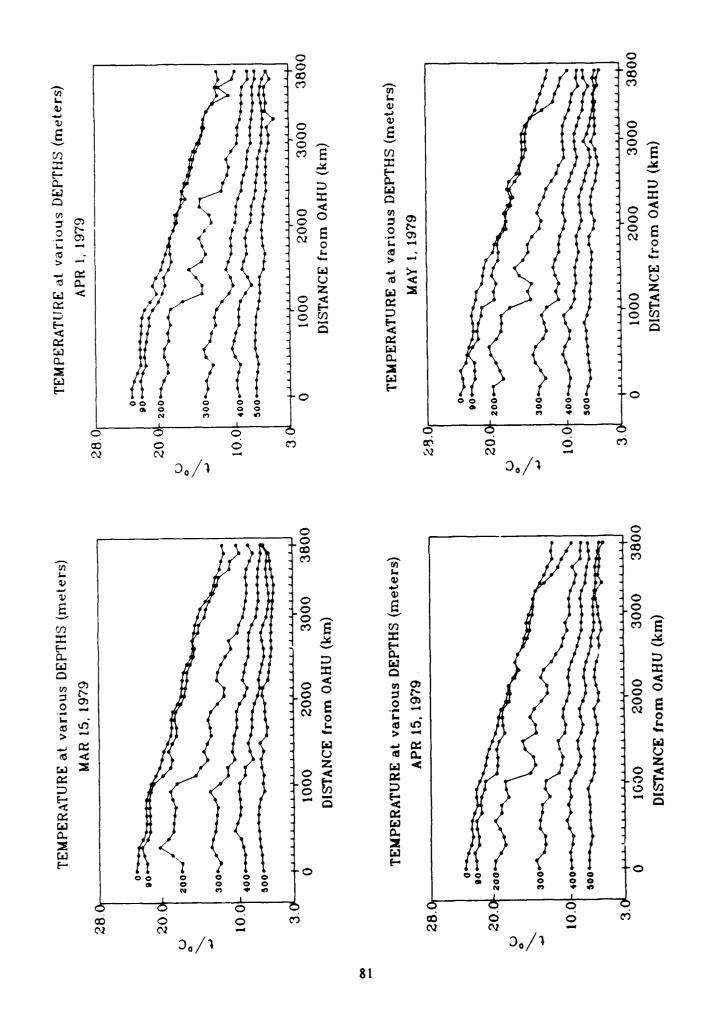


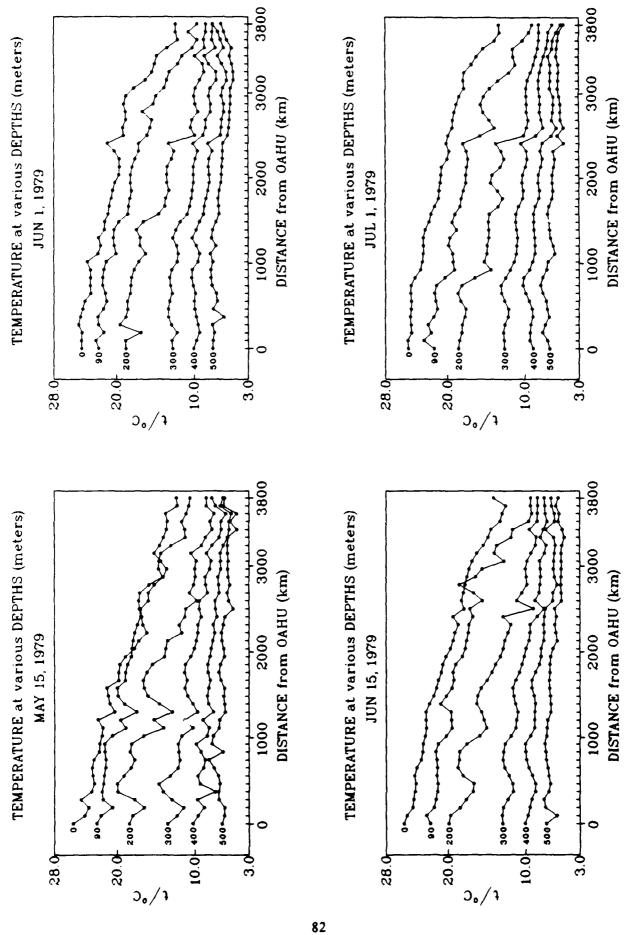


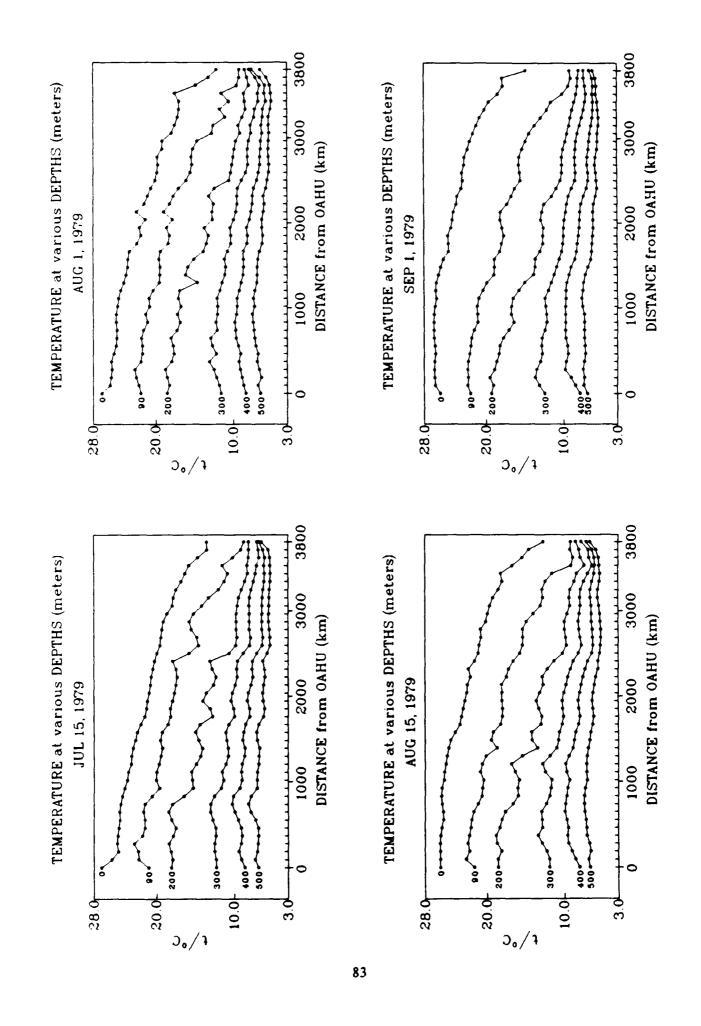


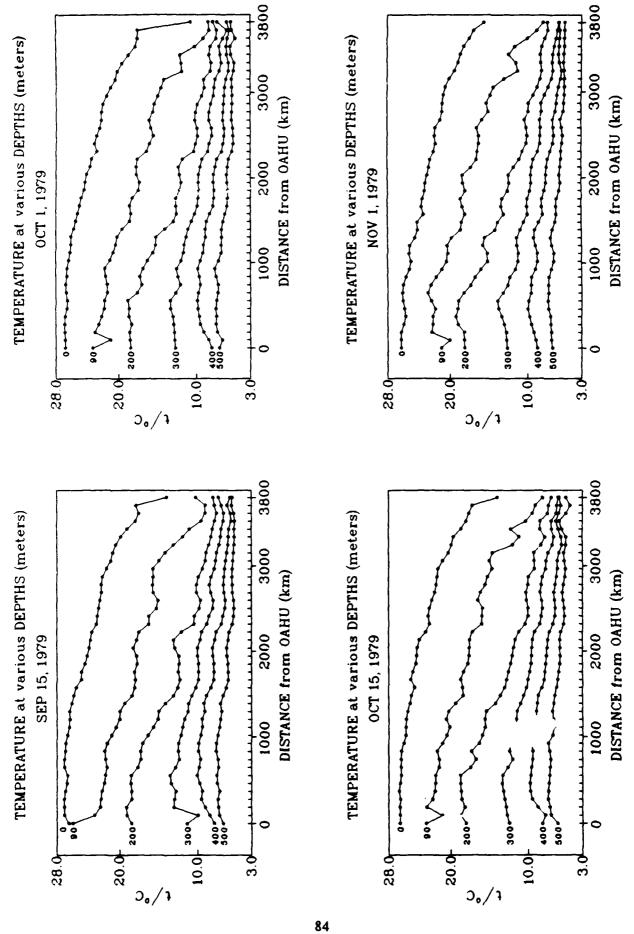


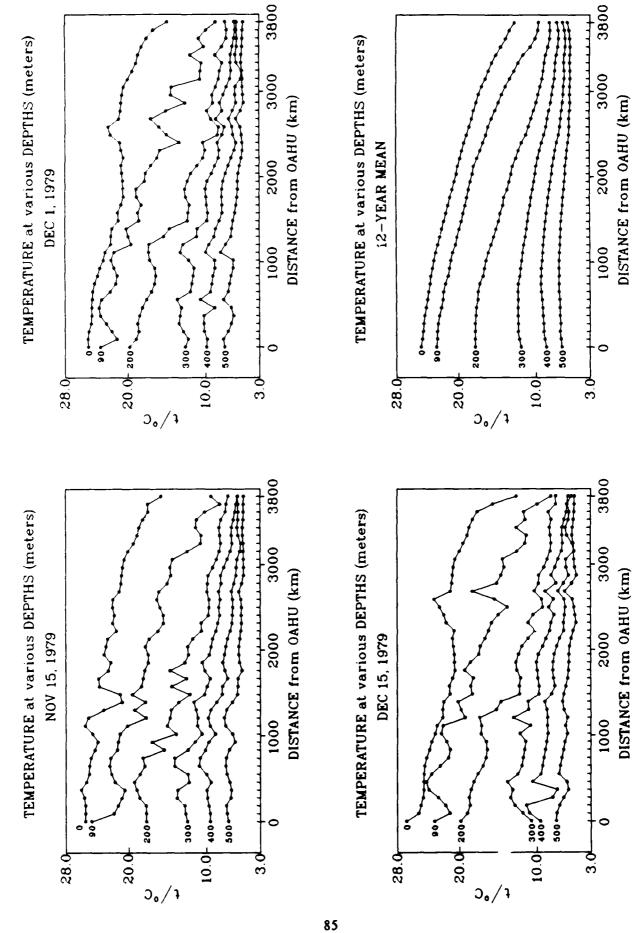


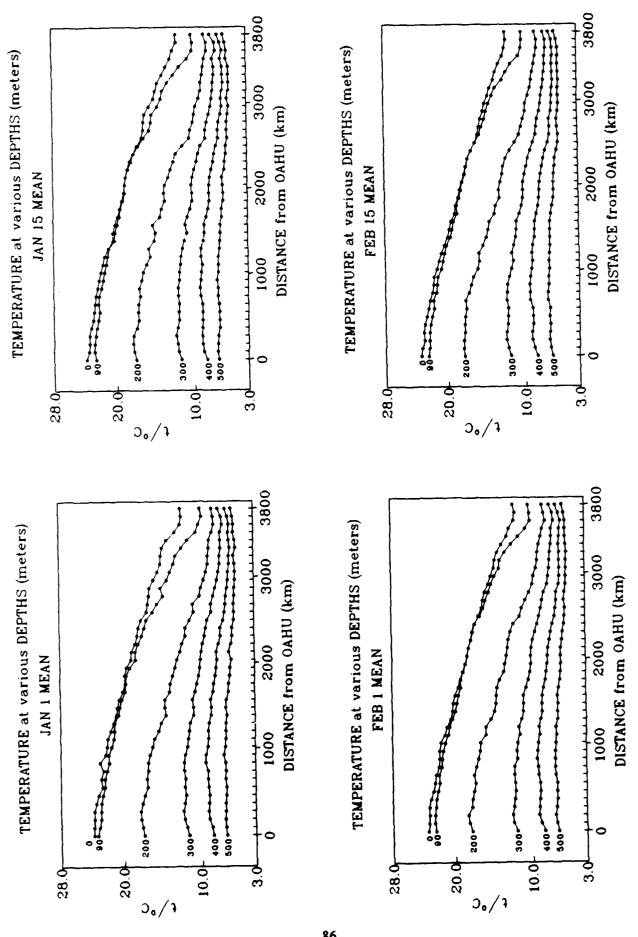


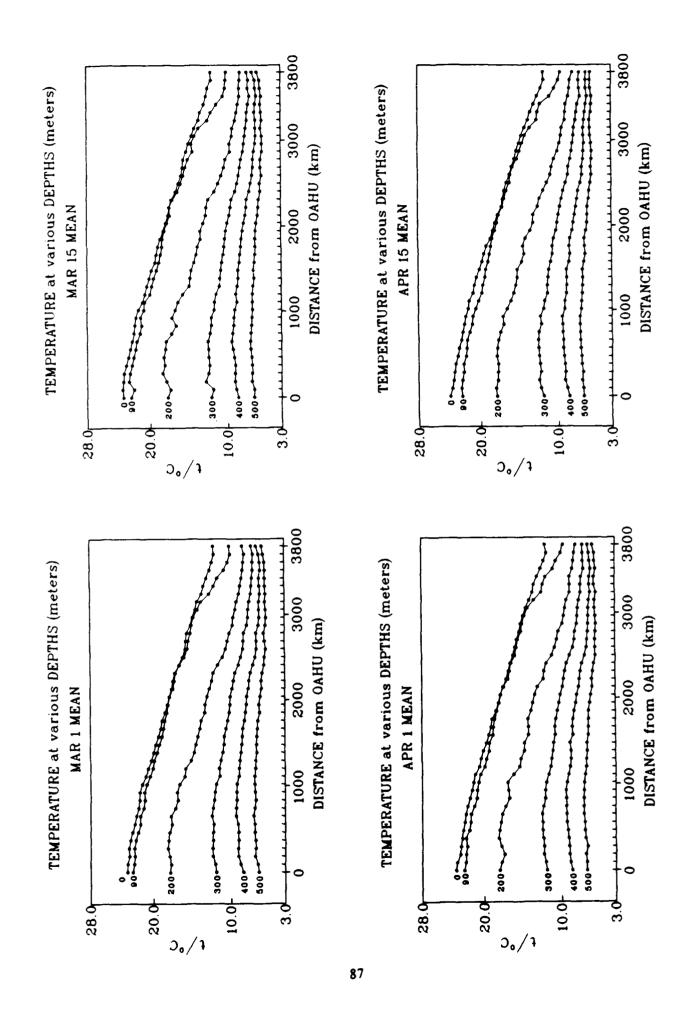


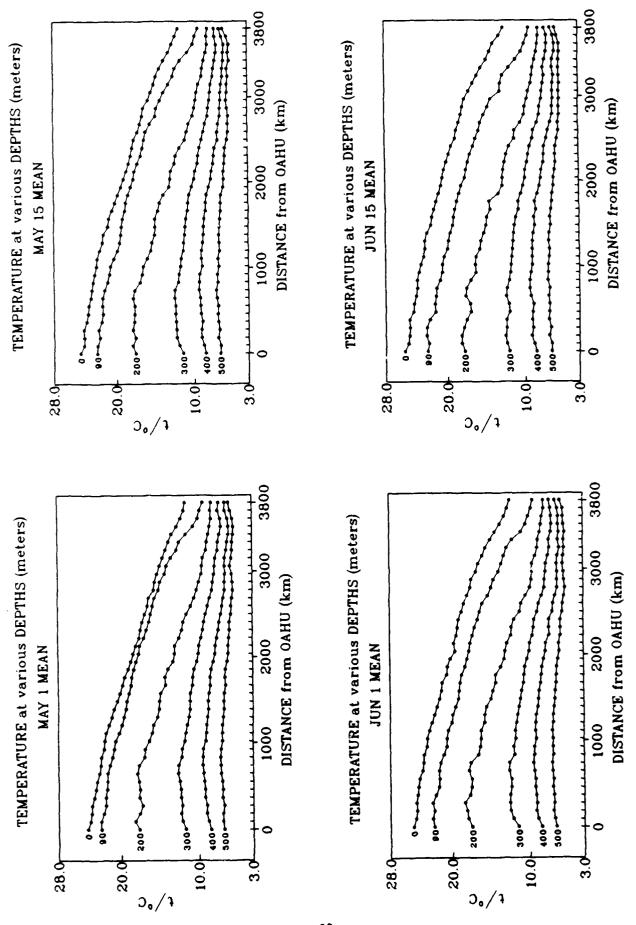


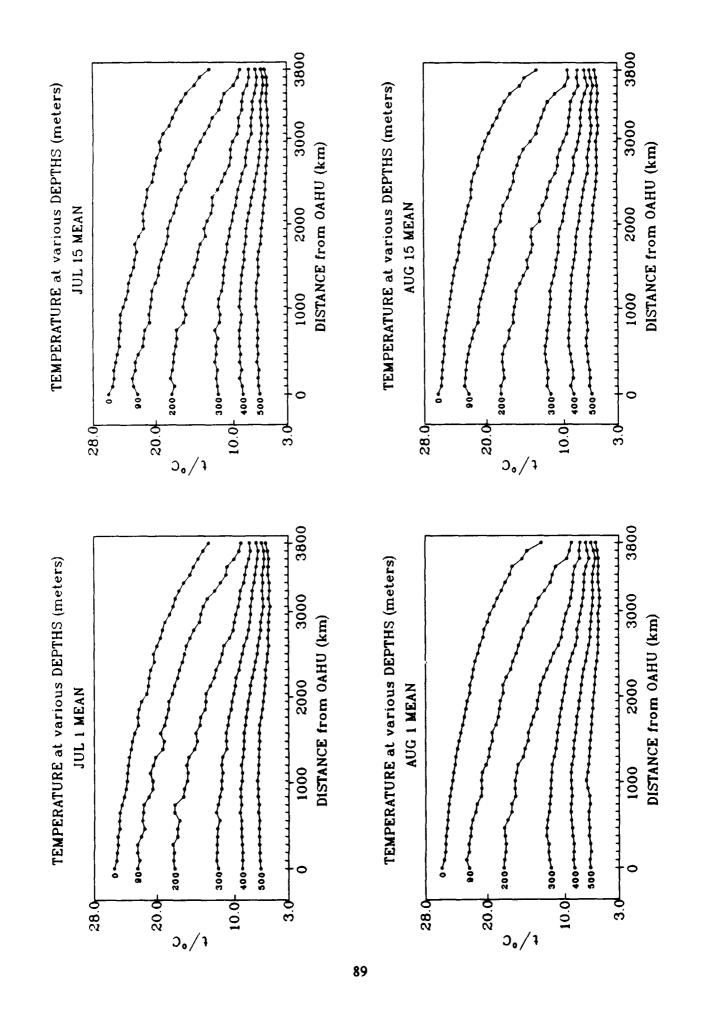


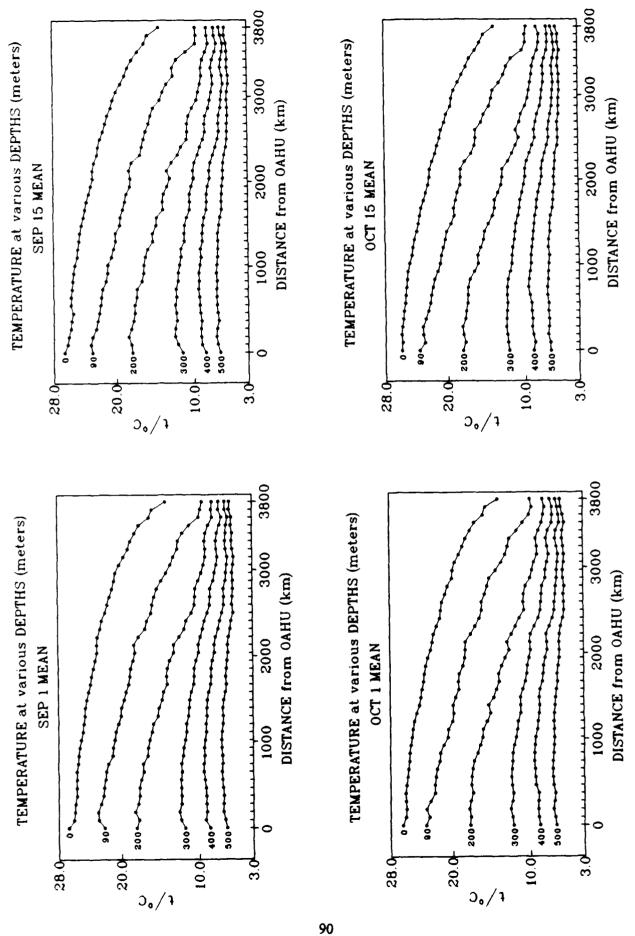


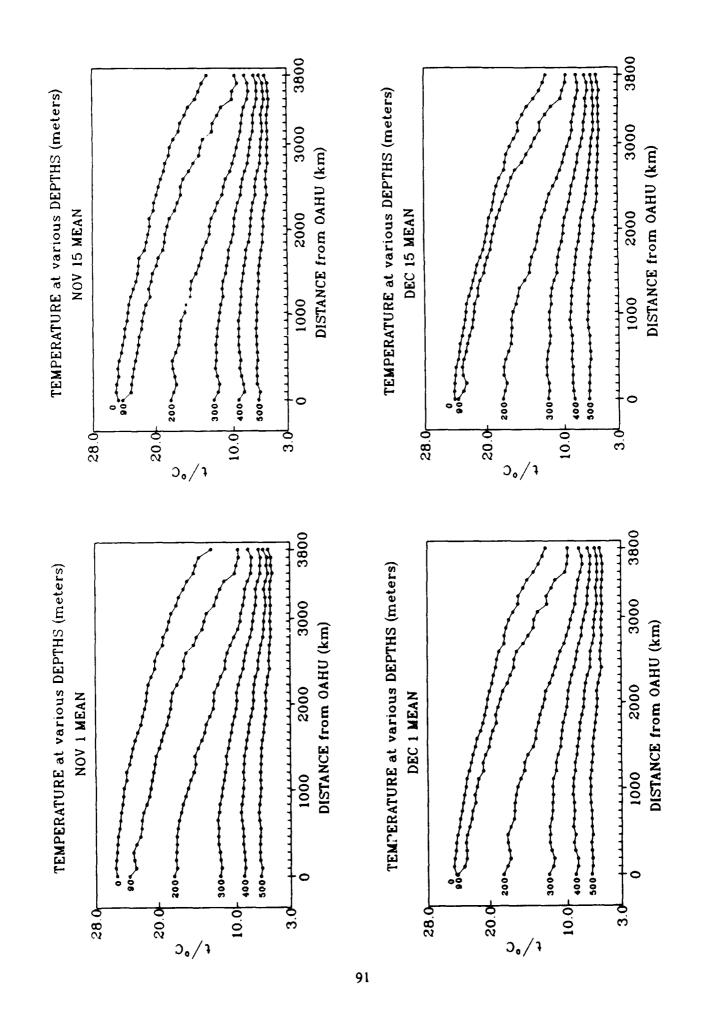




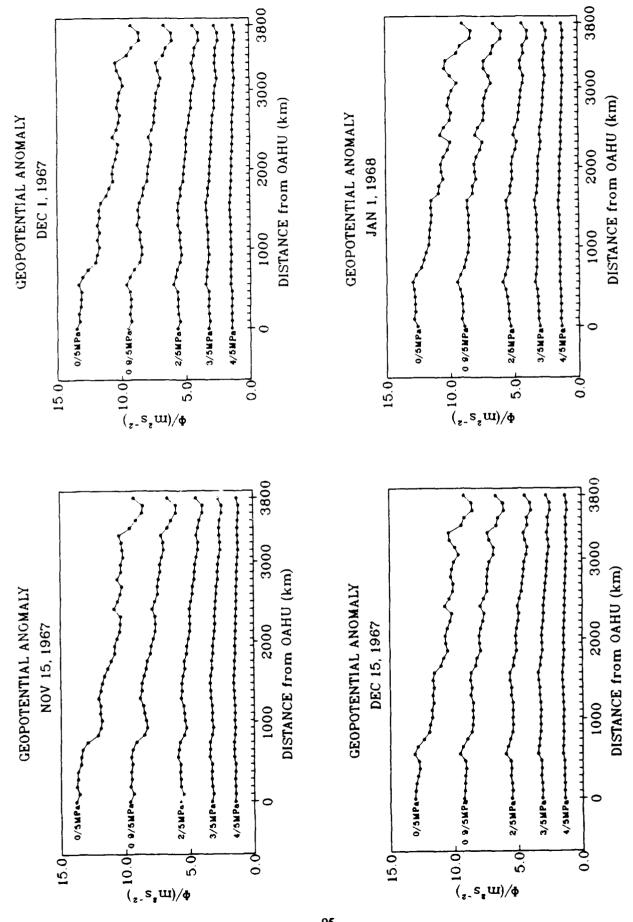


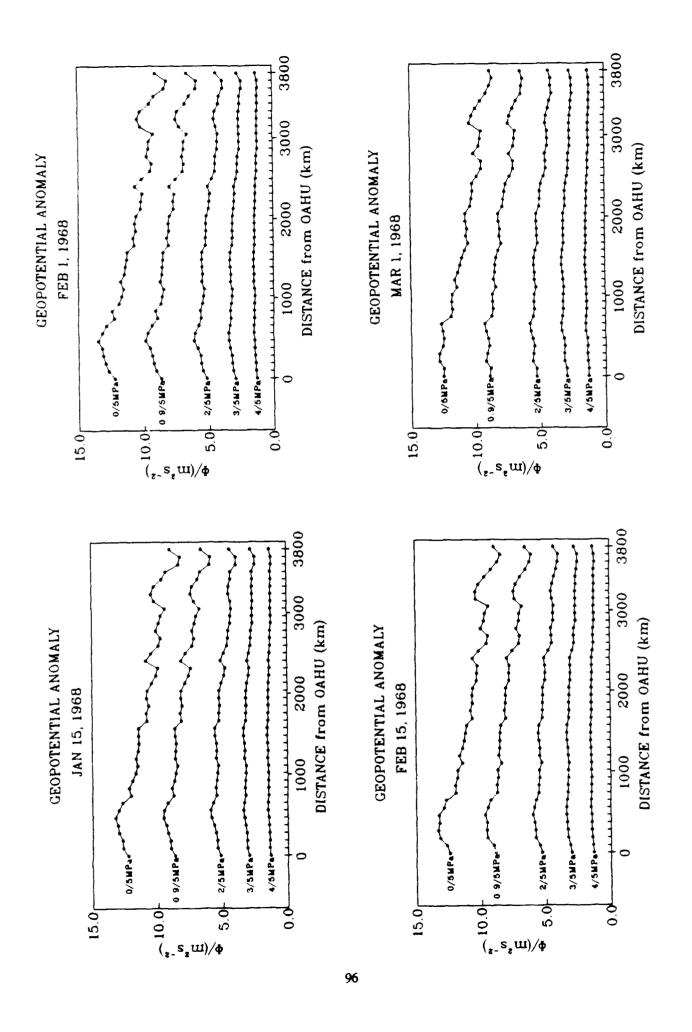


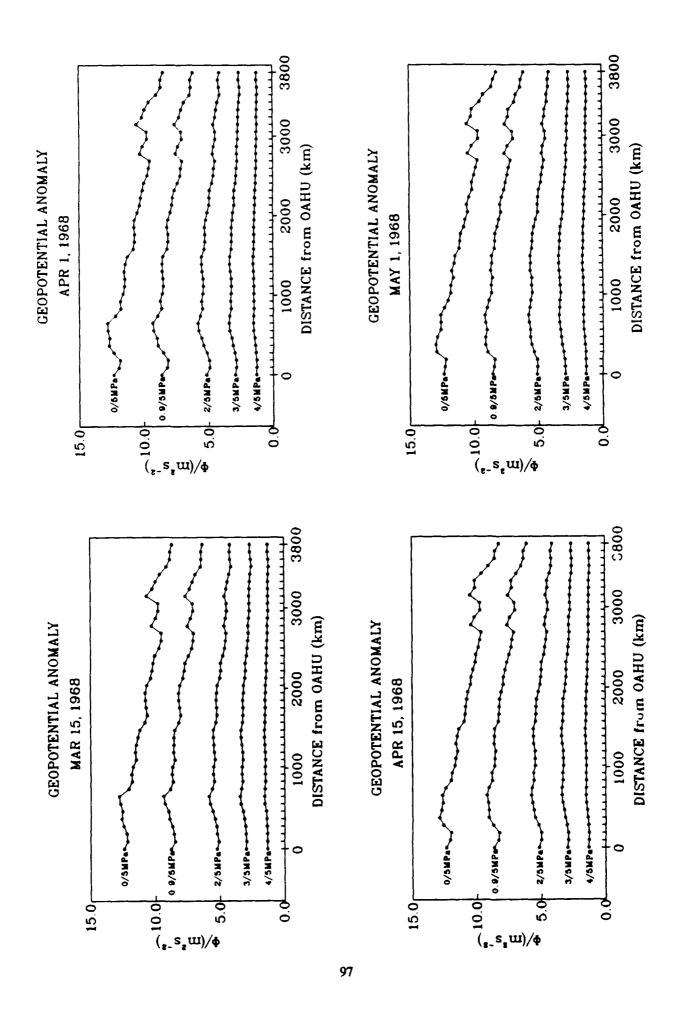


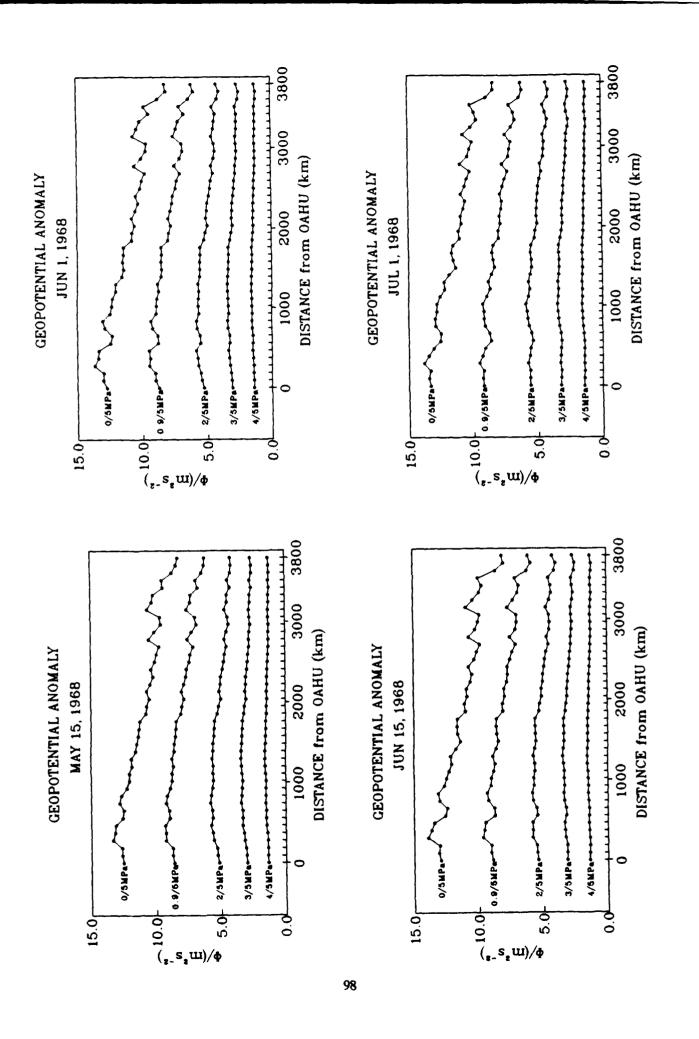


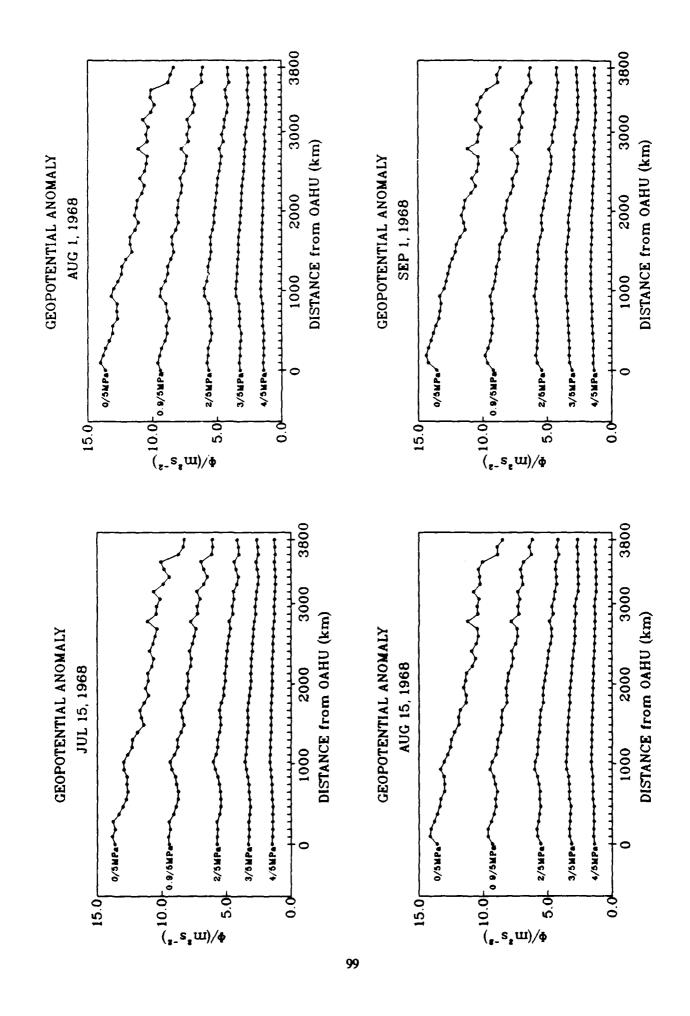
Geopotential Anomalies Relative to 5MPa, The 12-Year Average over 1968 through 1979, Averages over each Semi-month

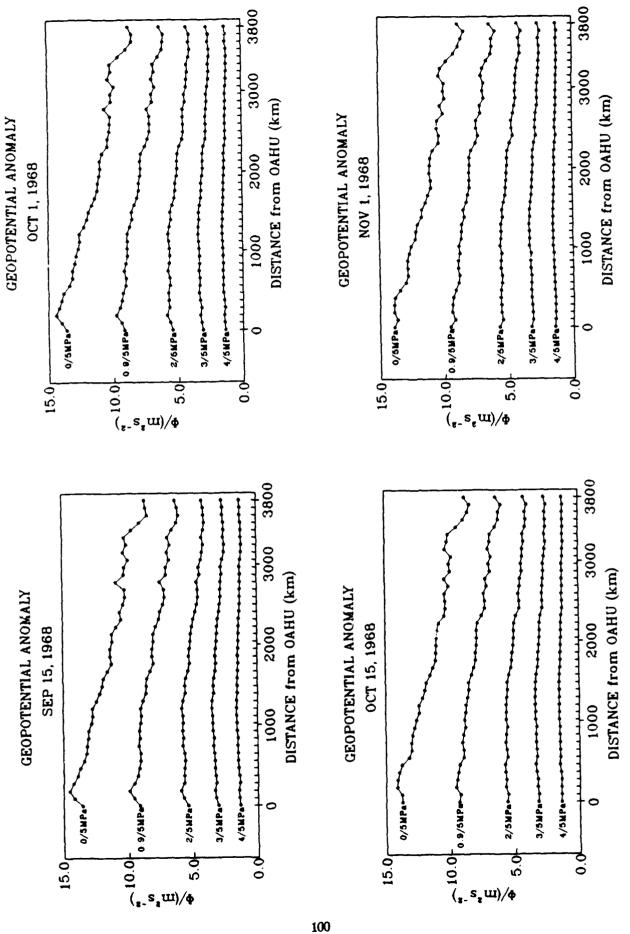


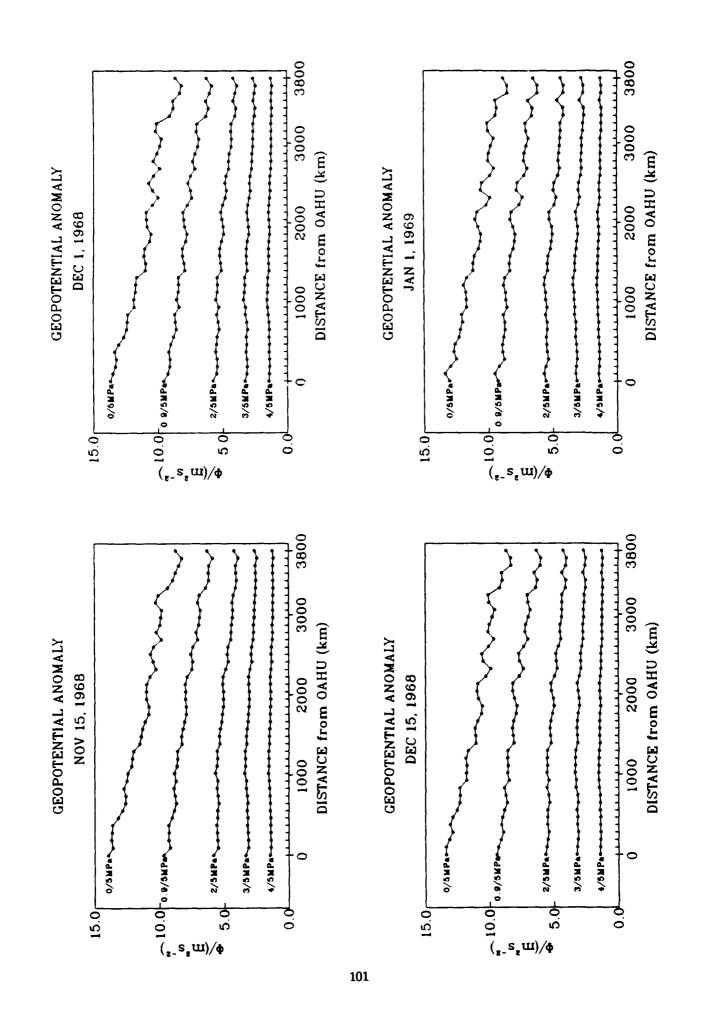


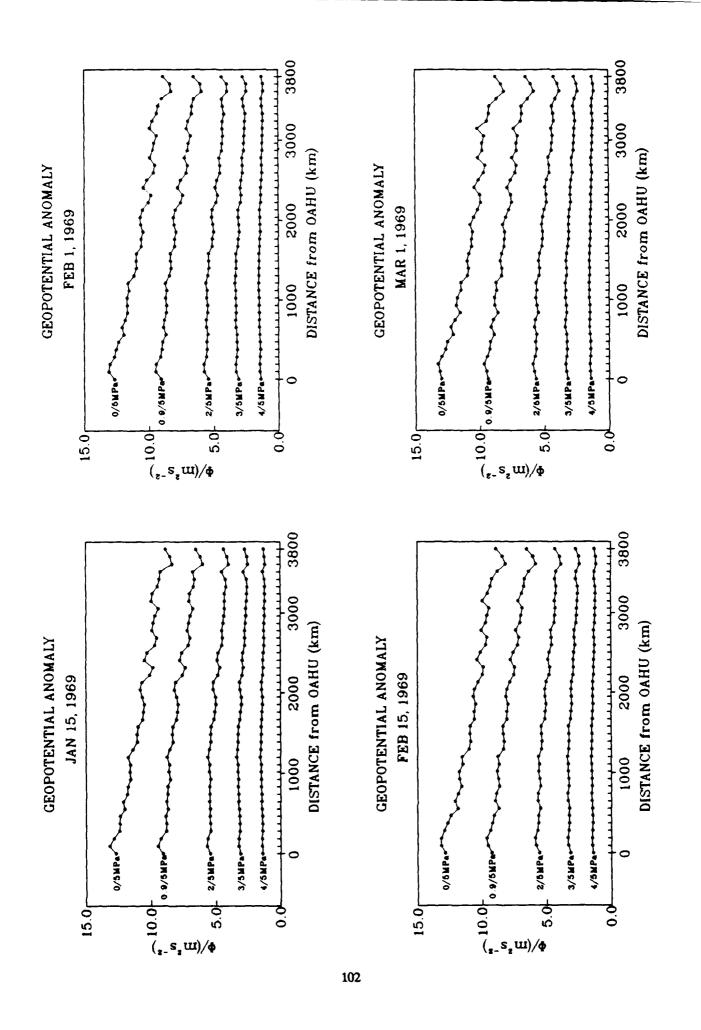


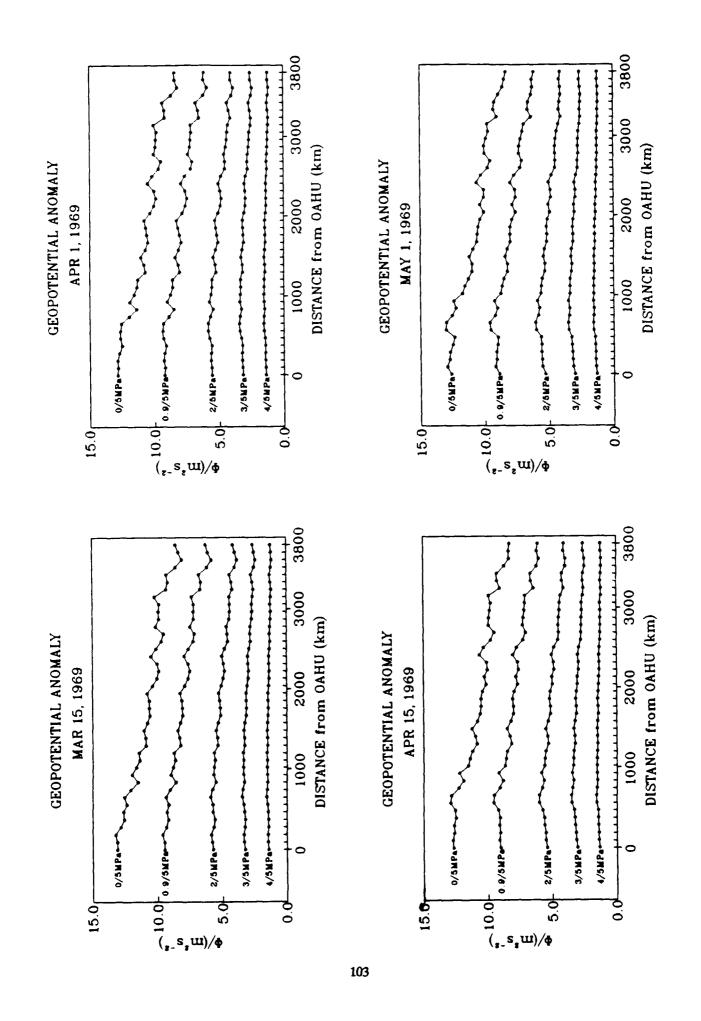


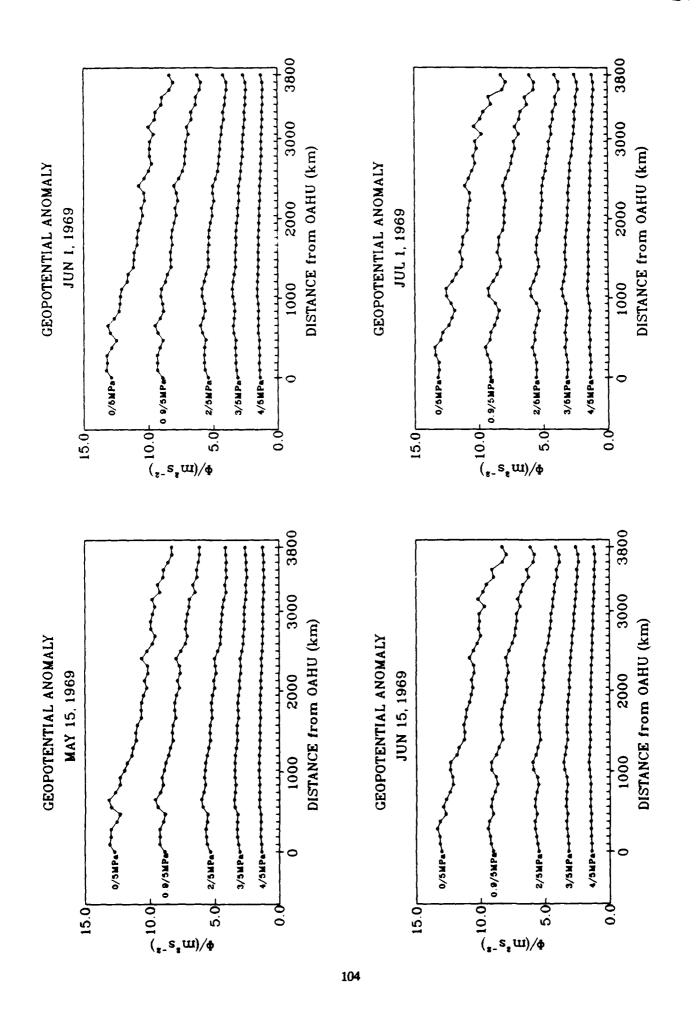


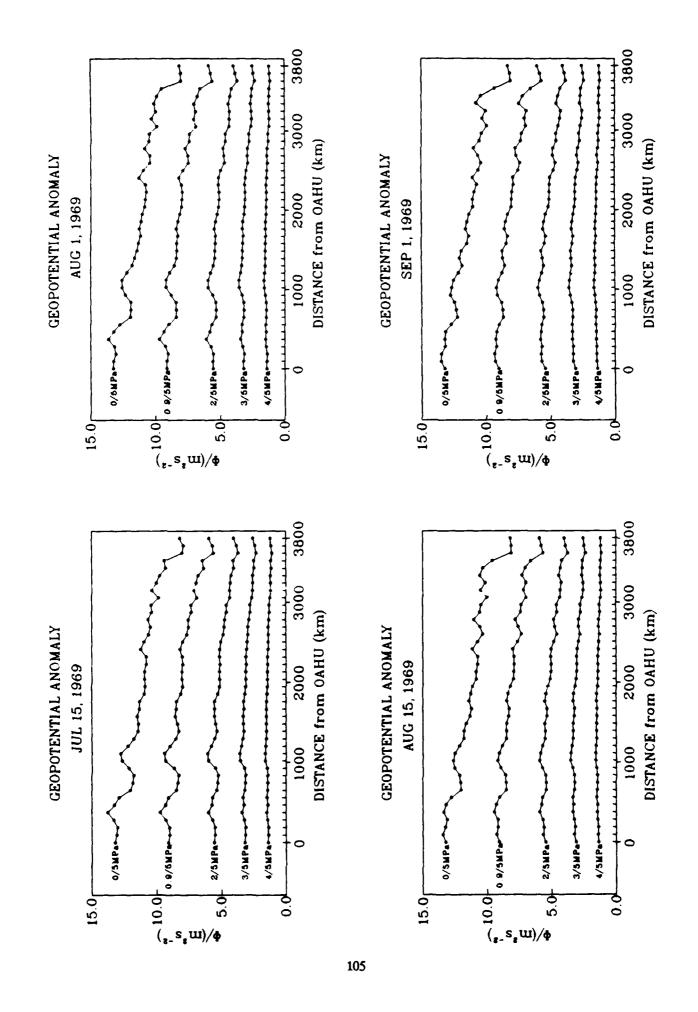


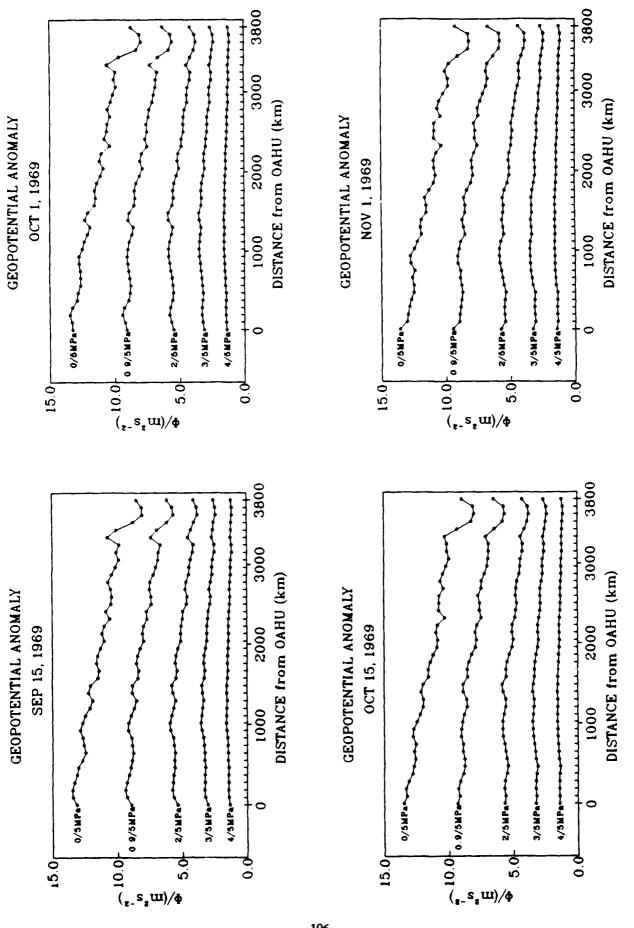


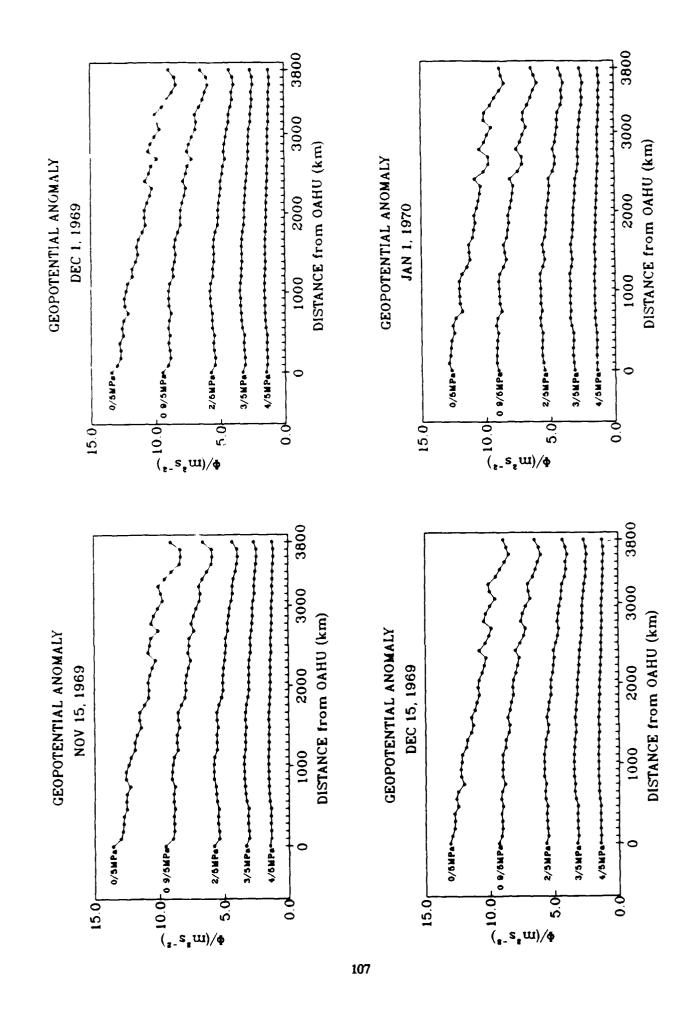


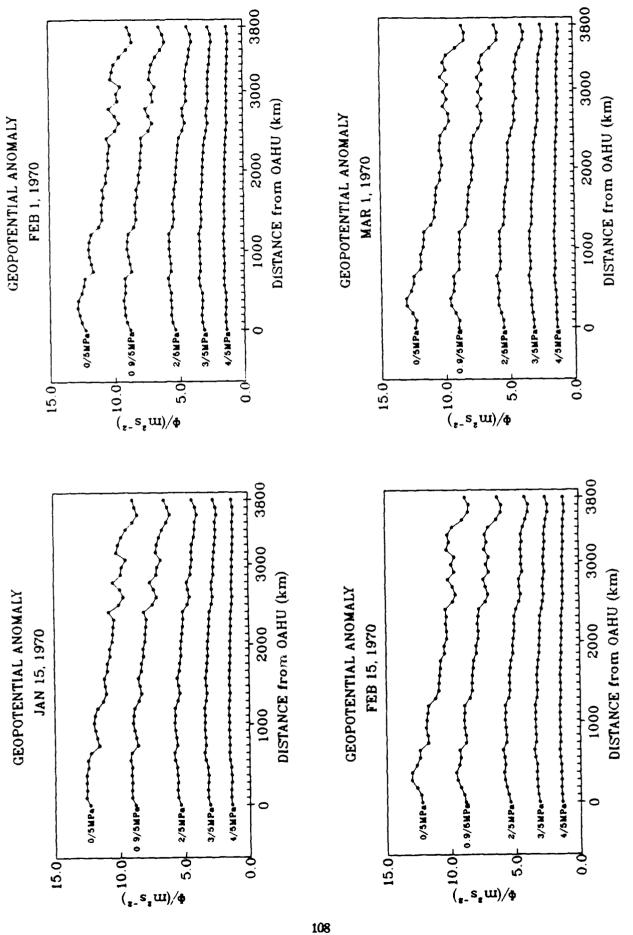


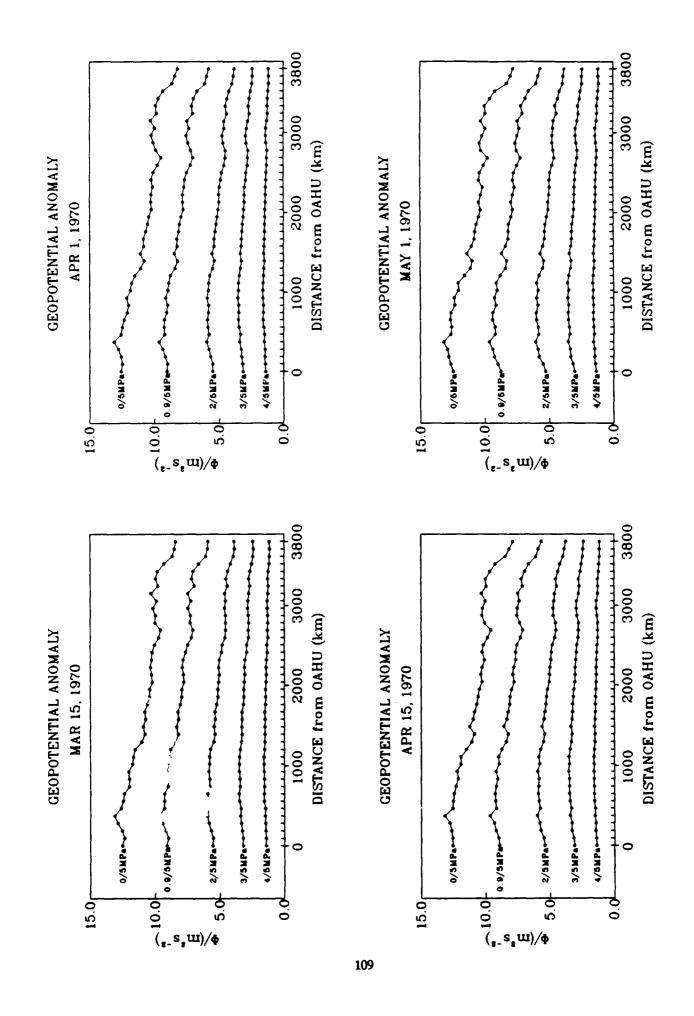


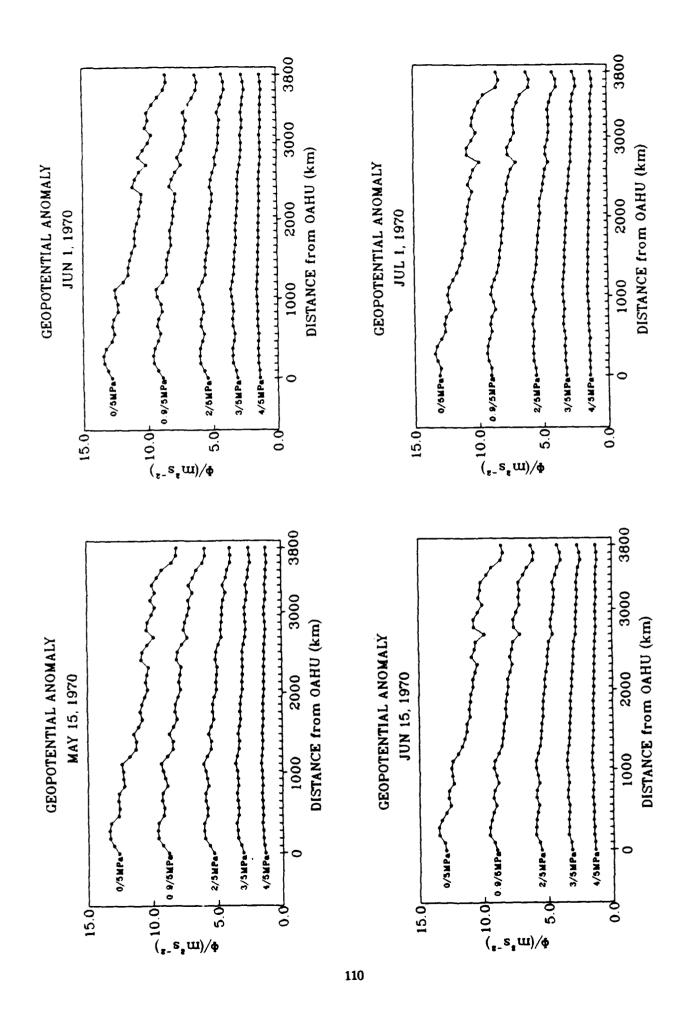


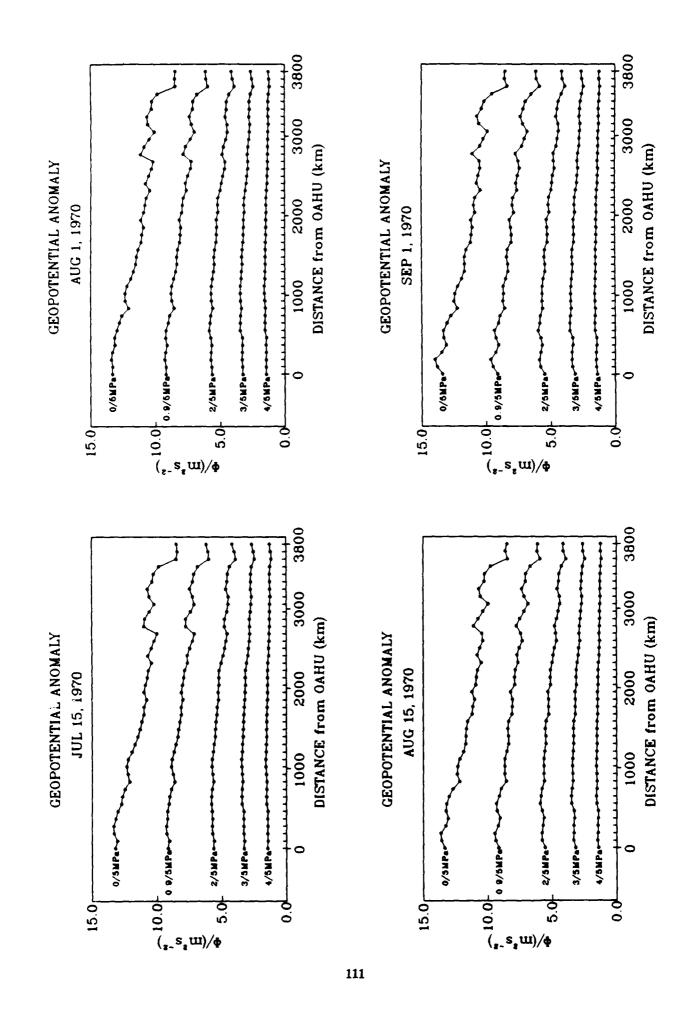


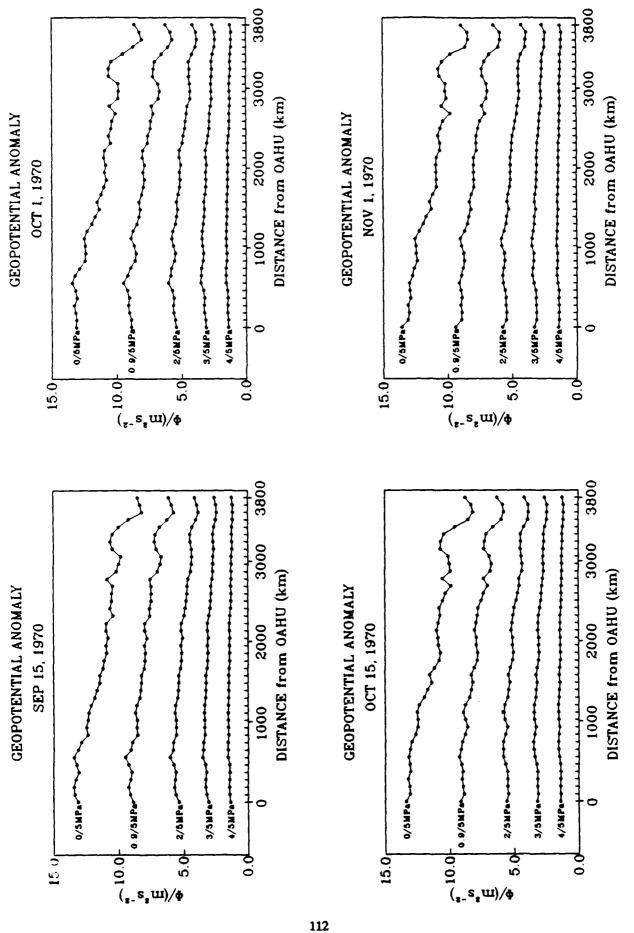


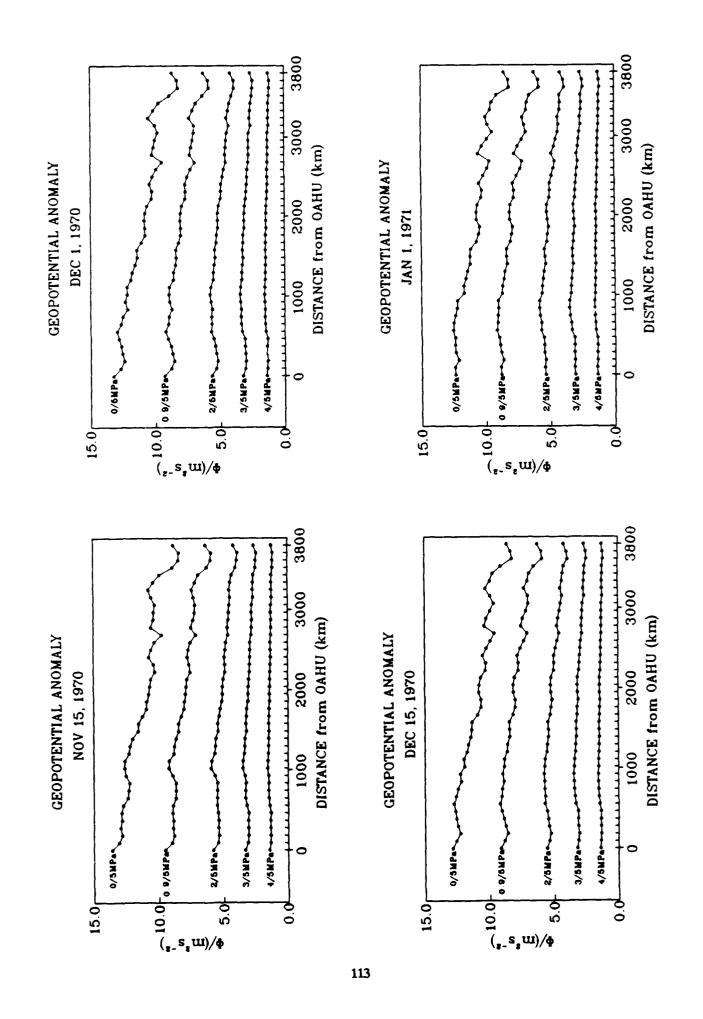


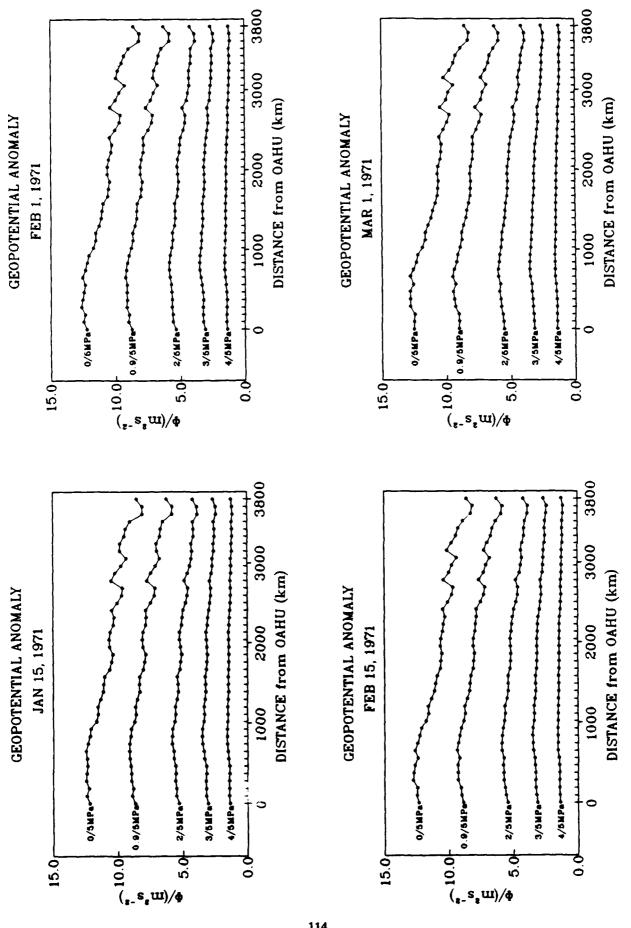


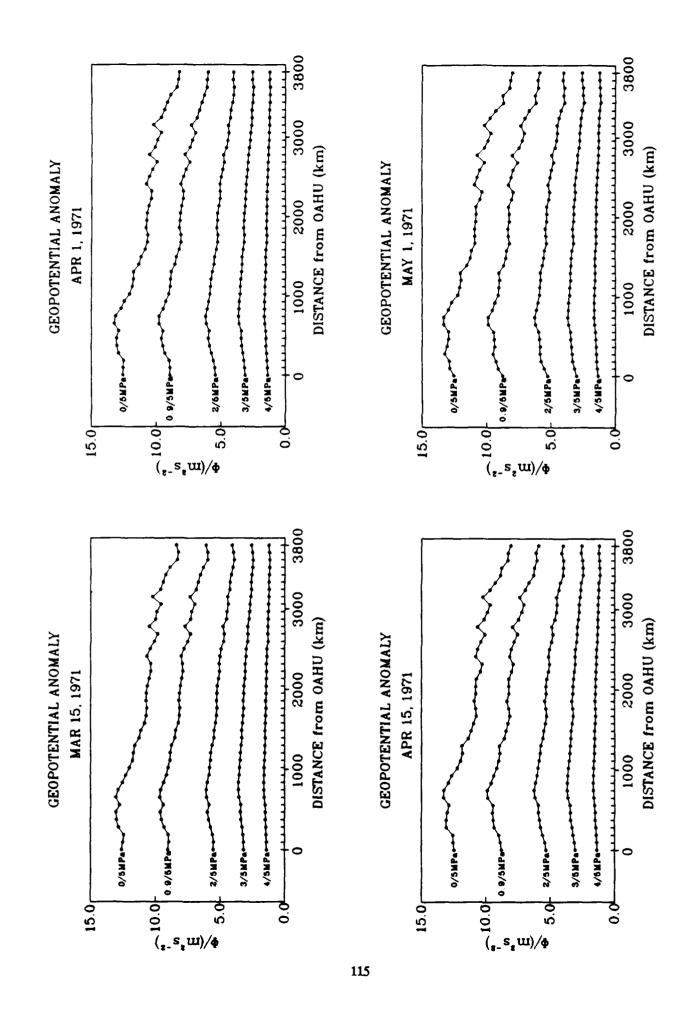


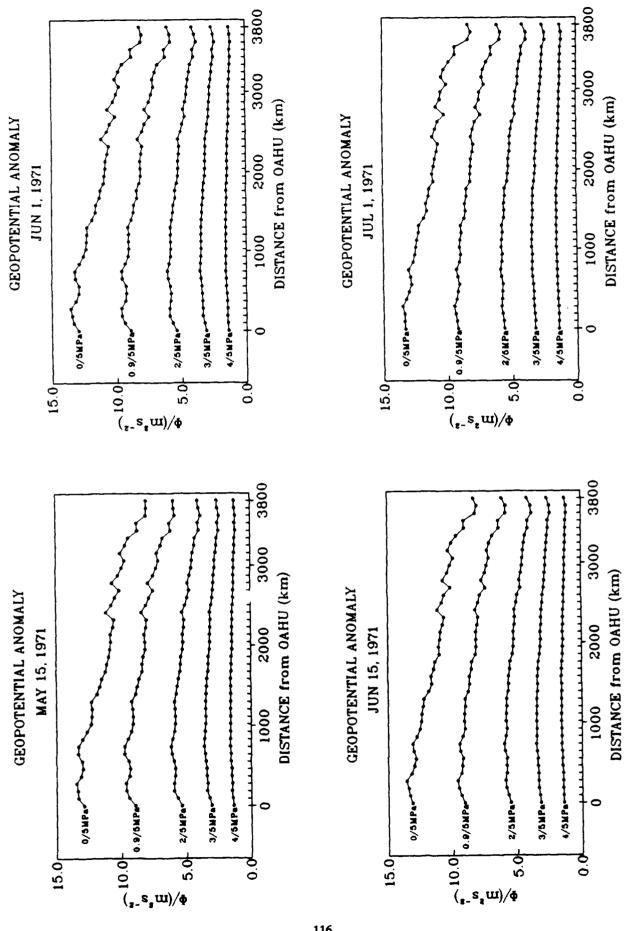


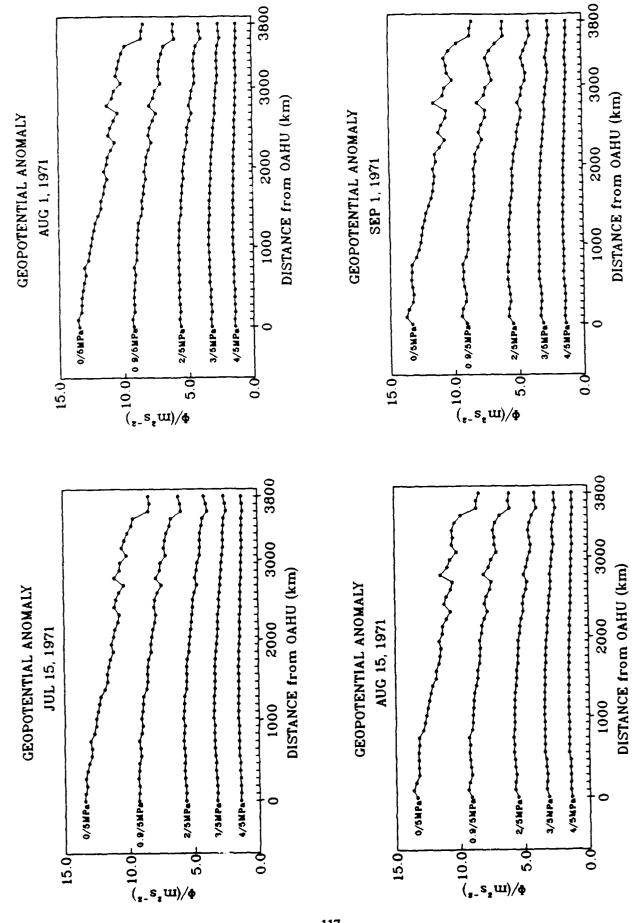


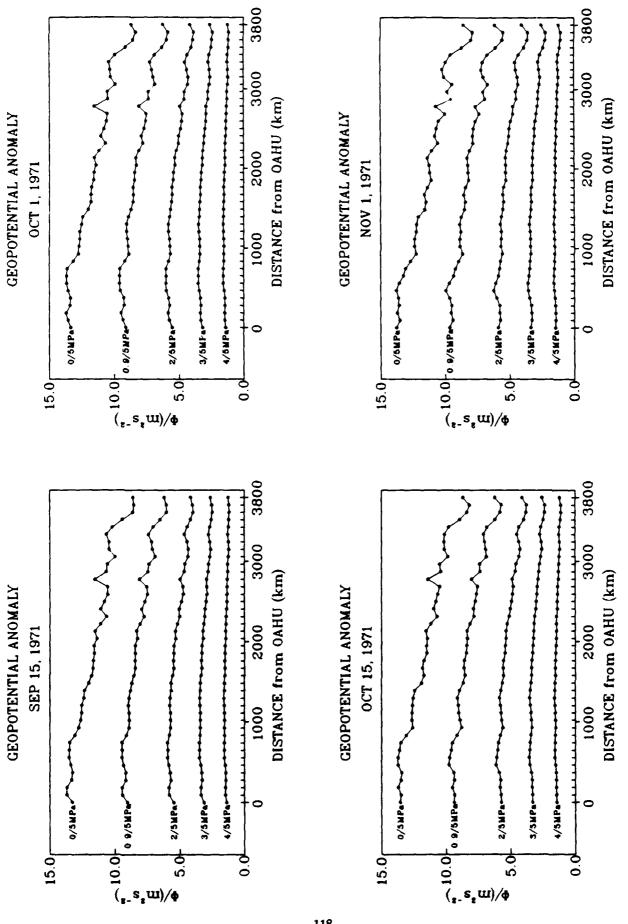


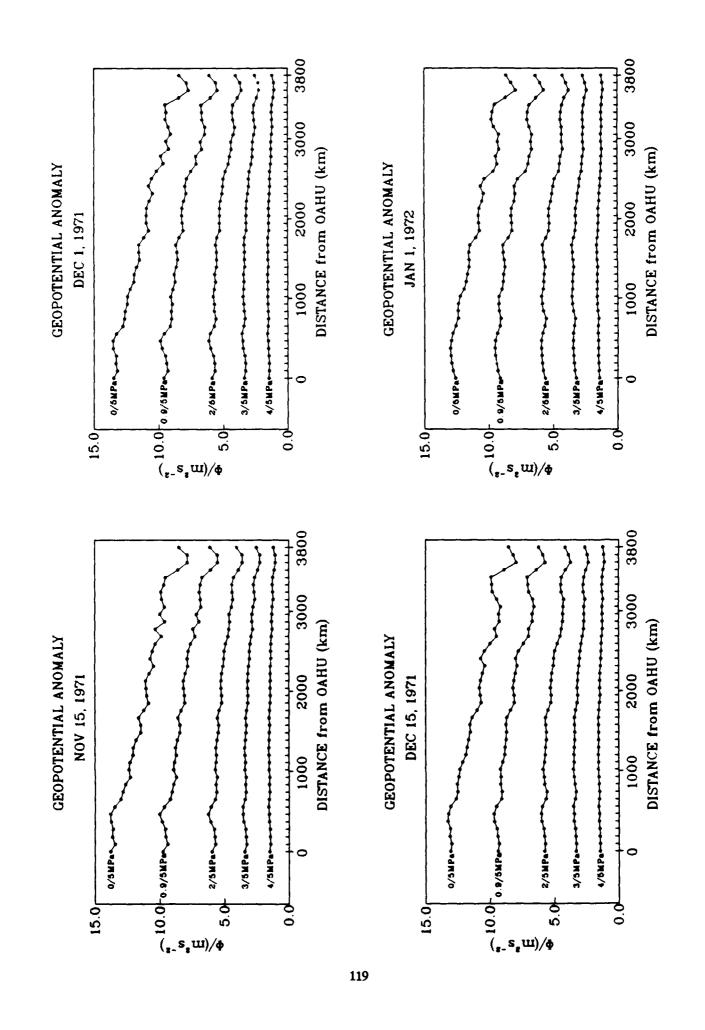


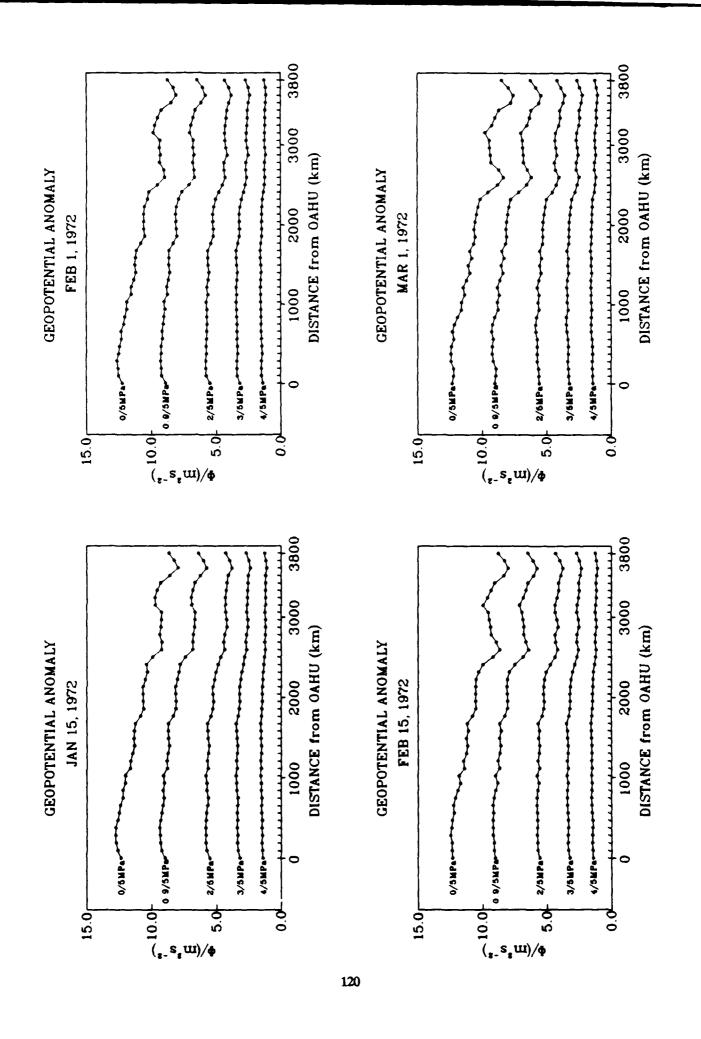


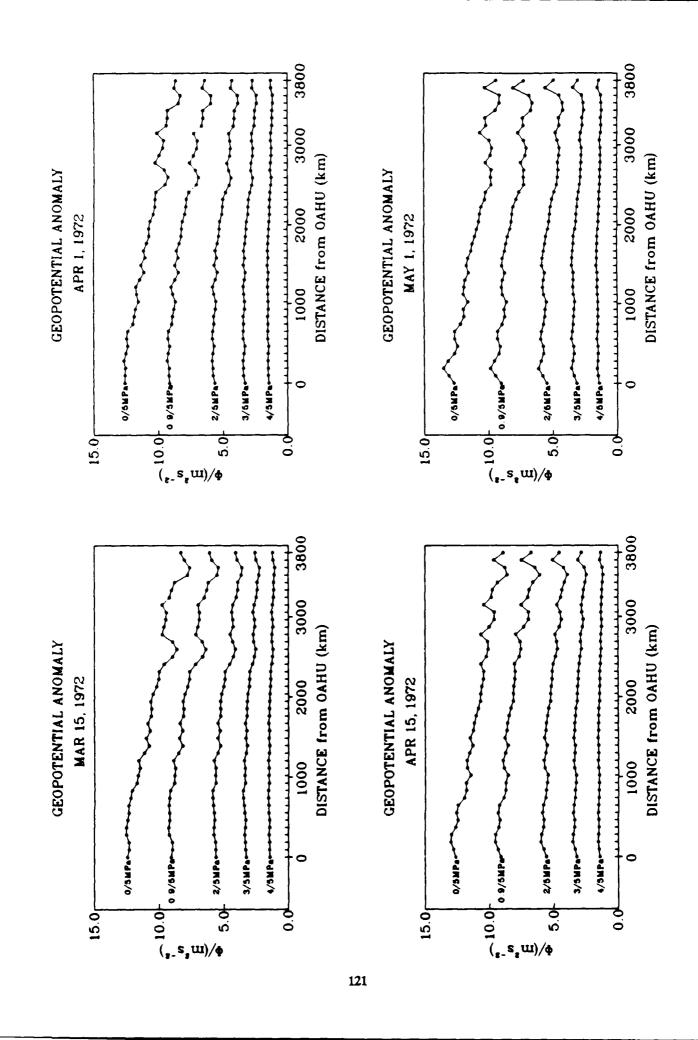


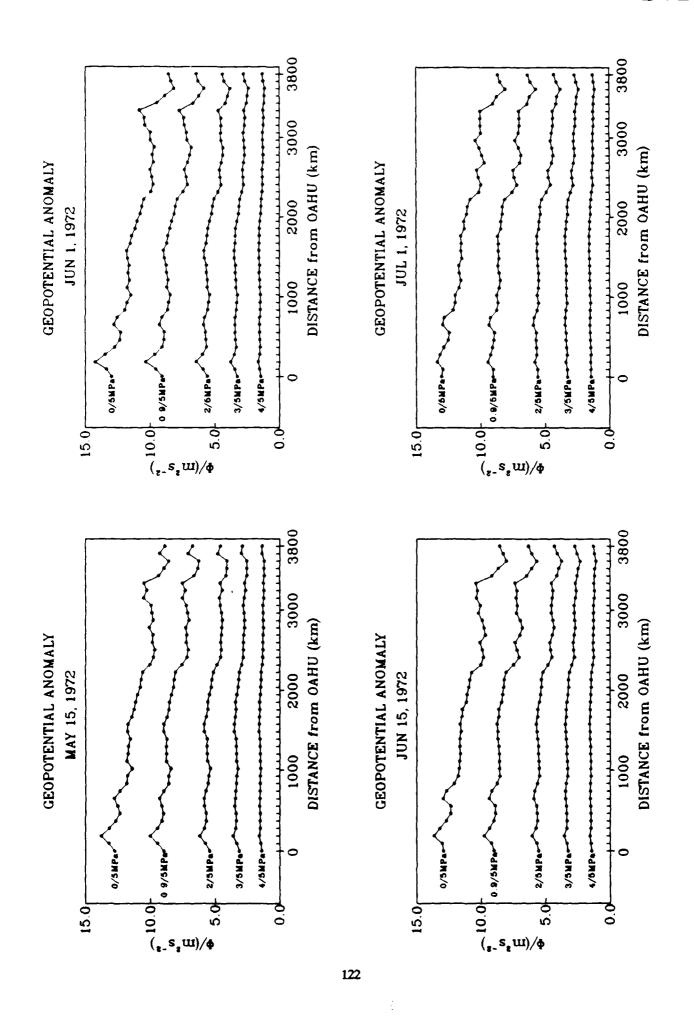


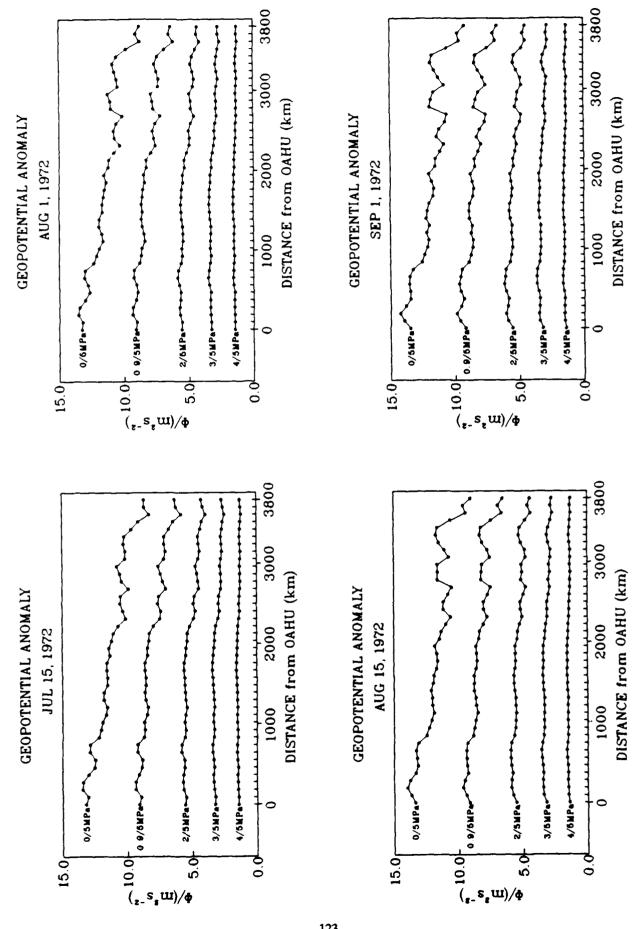


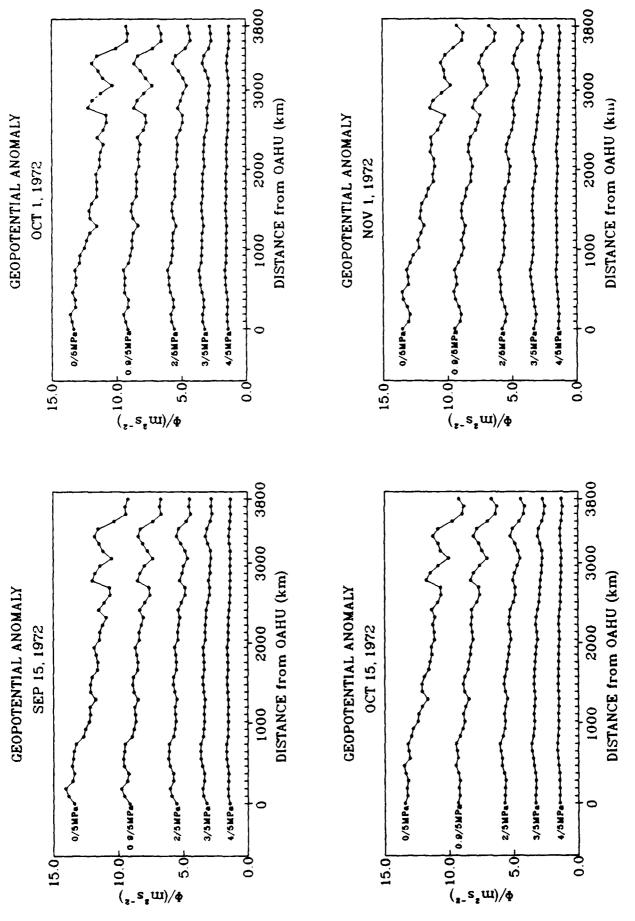


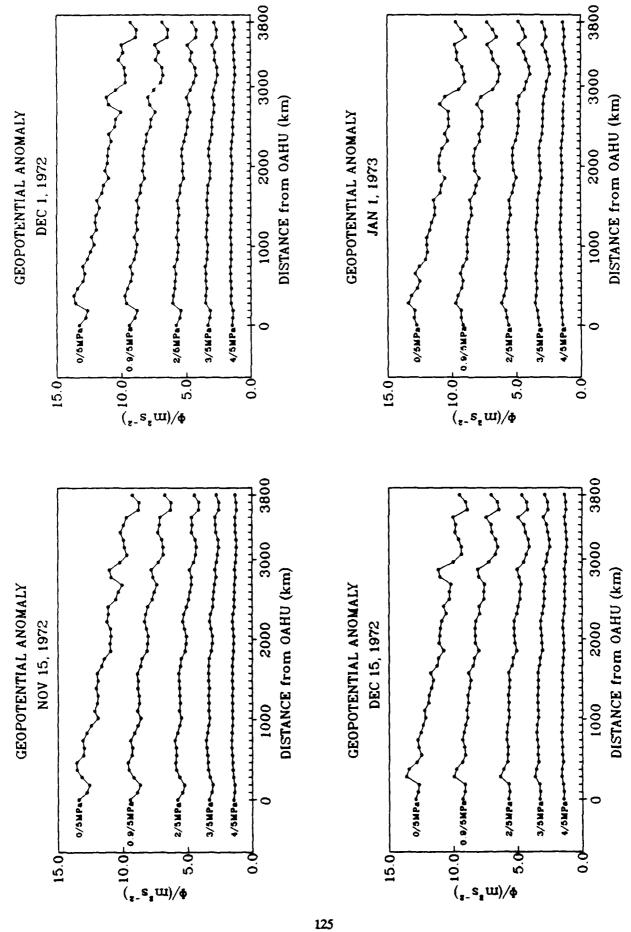


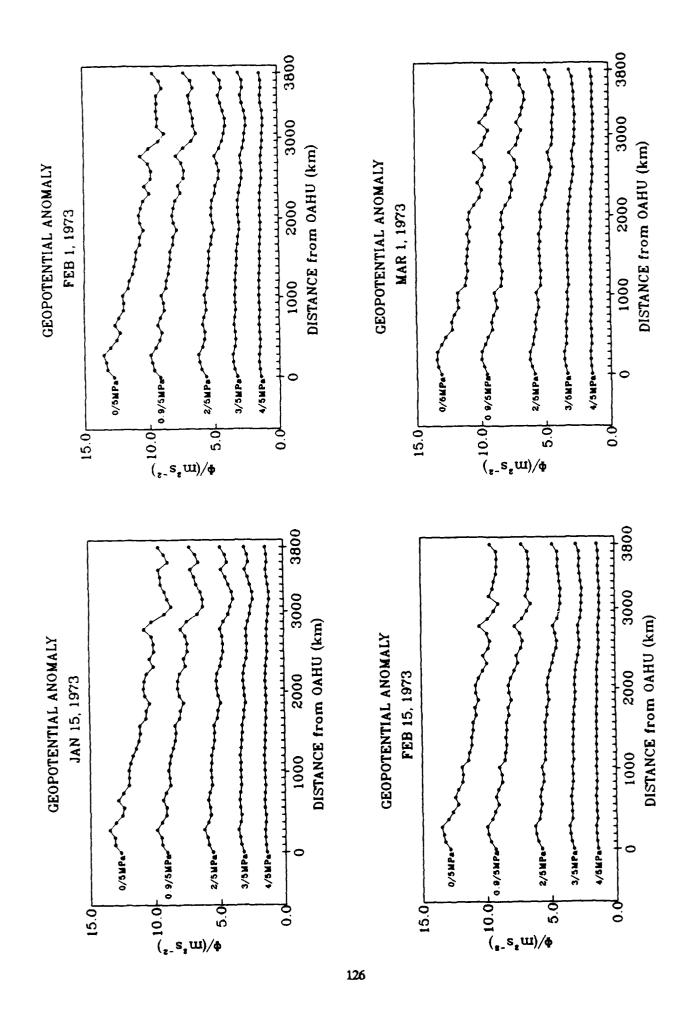


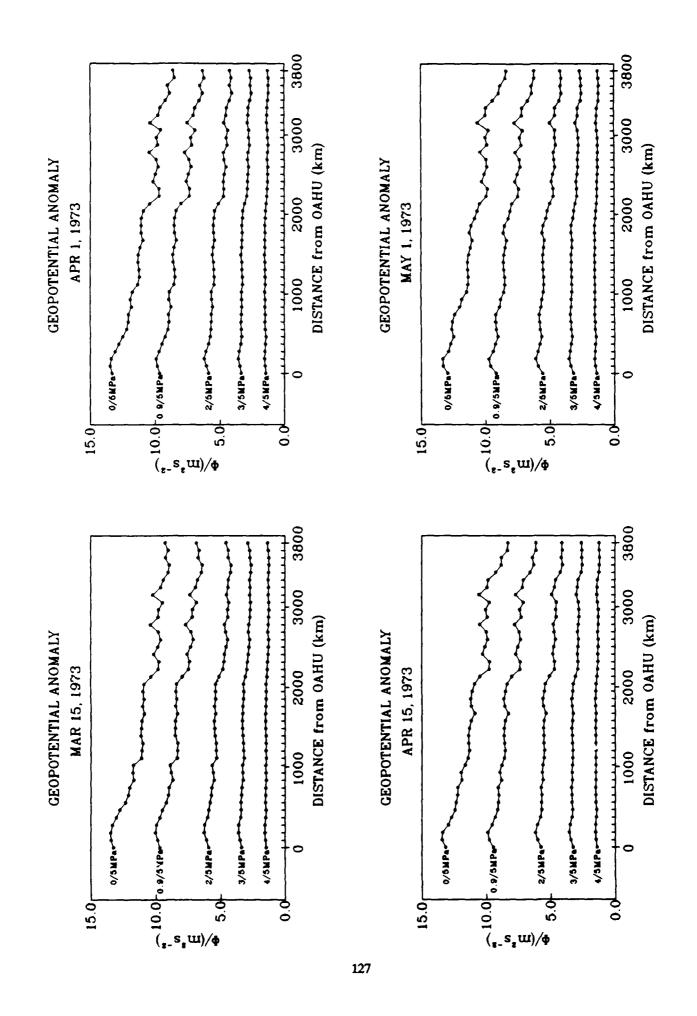


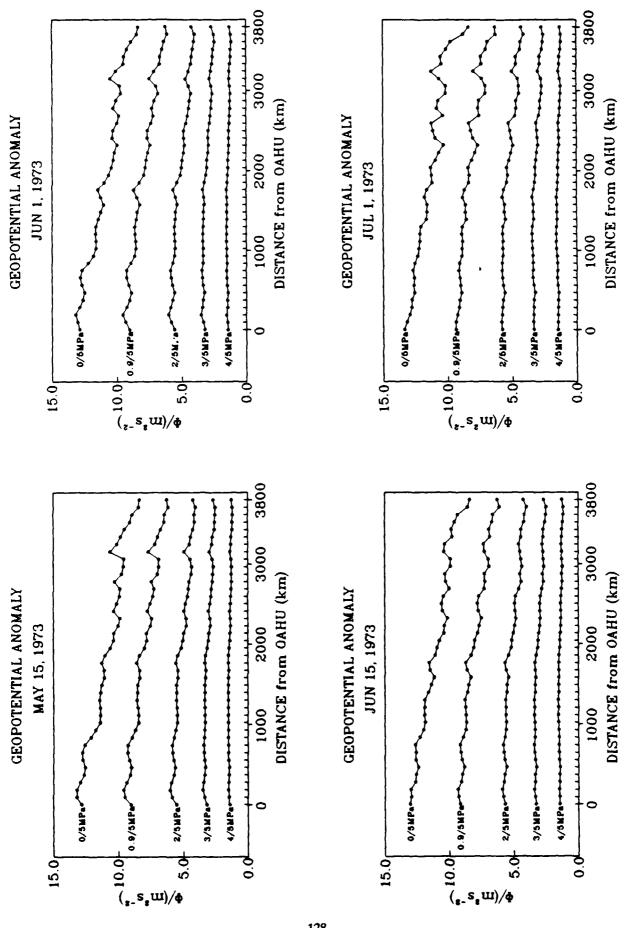


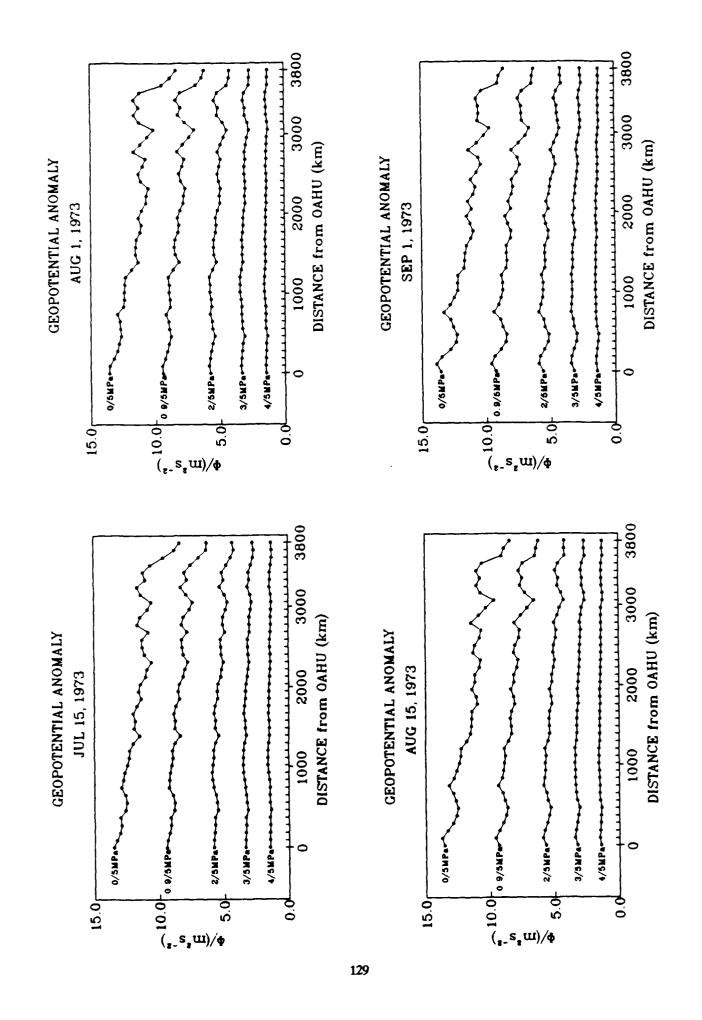


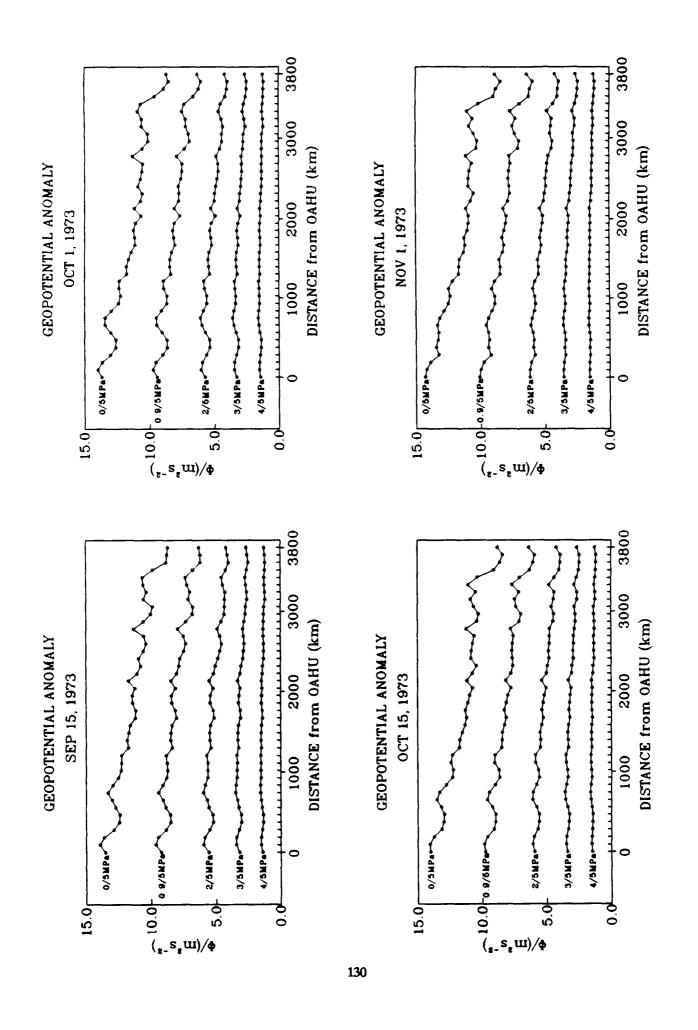


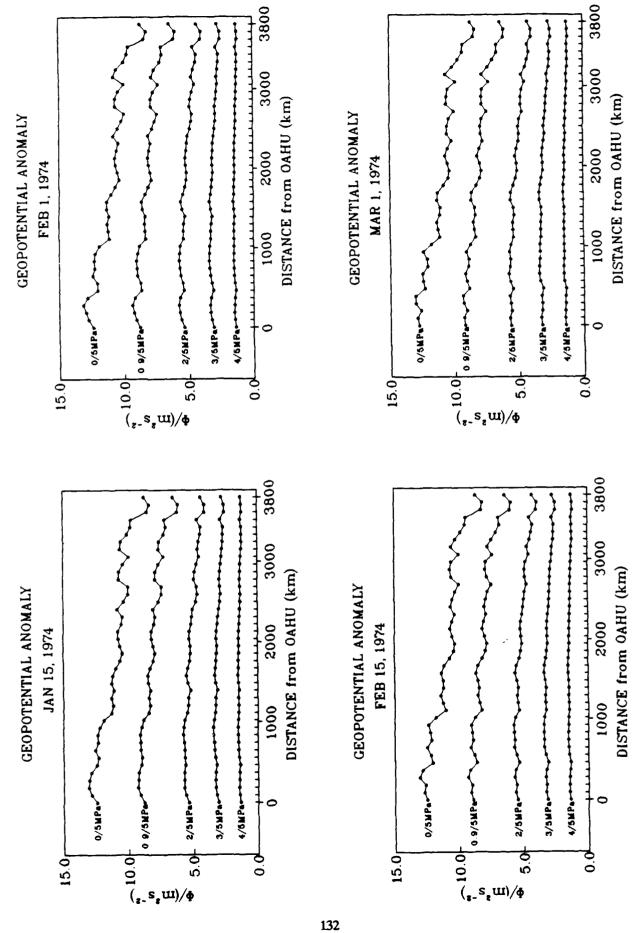


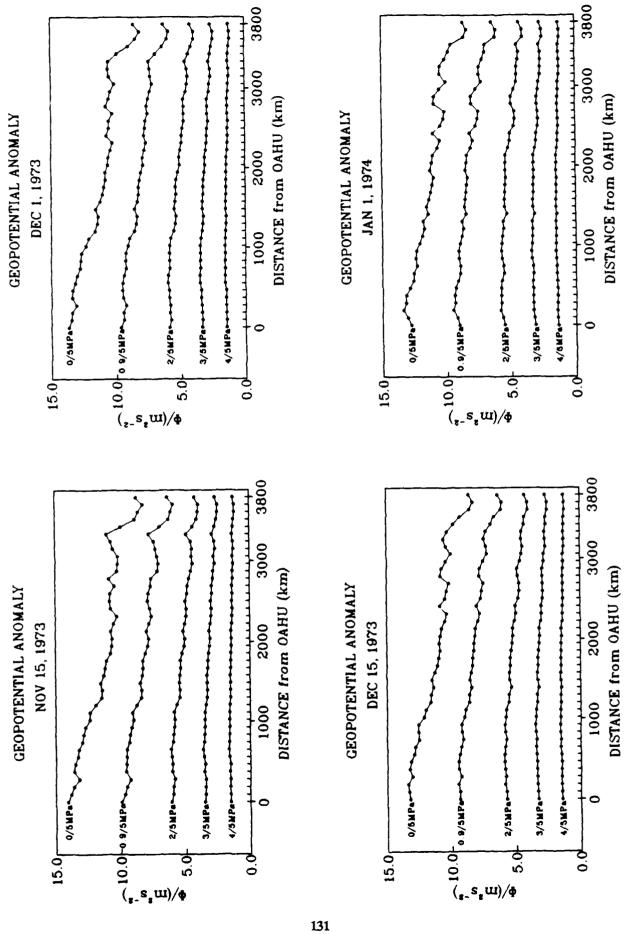


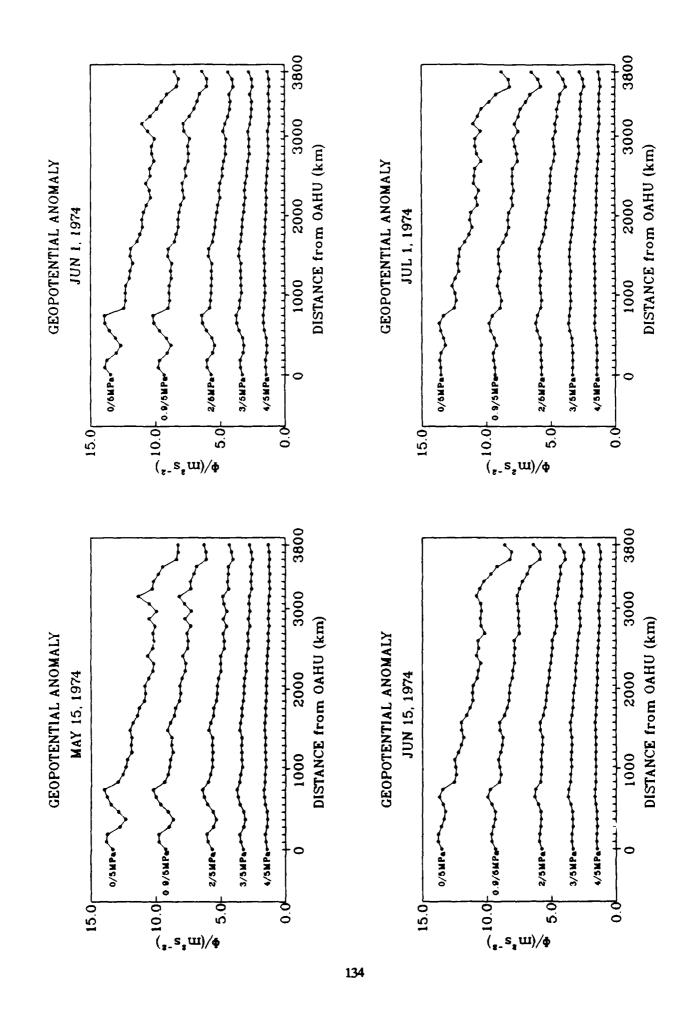


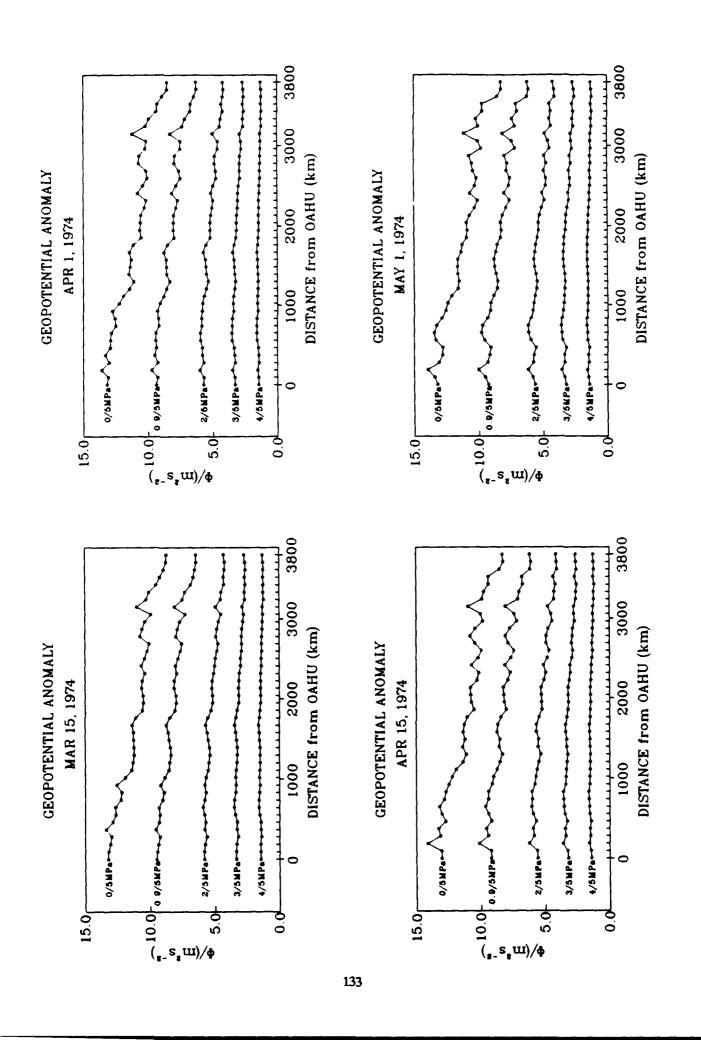


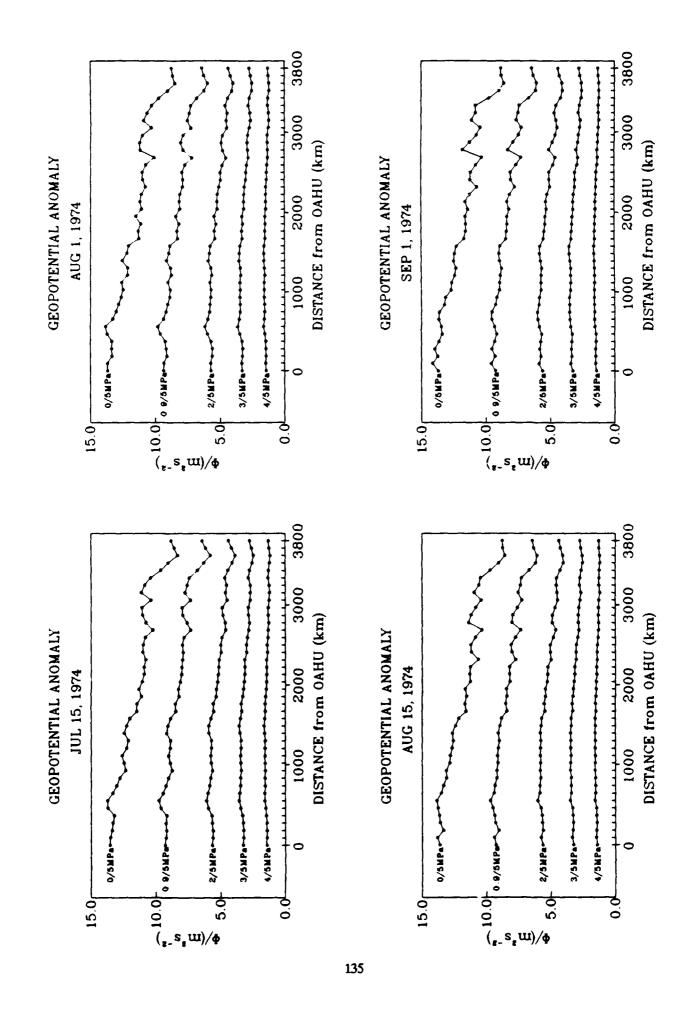


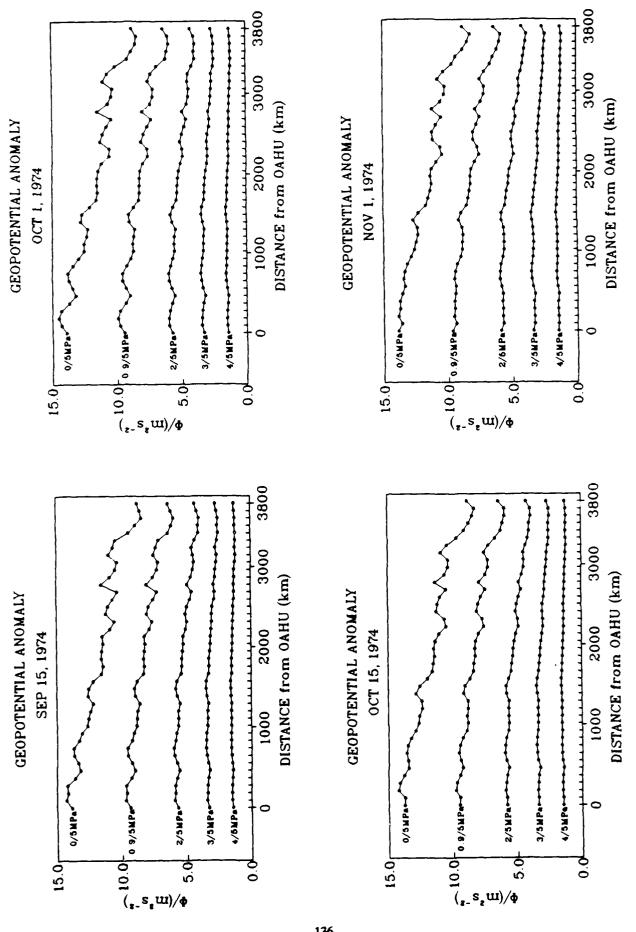


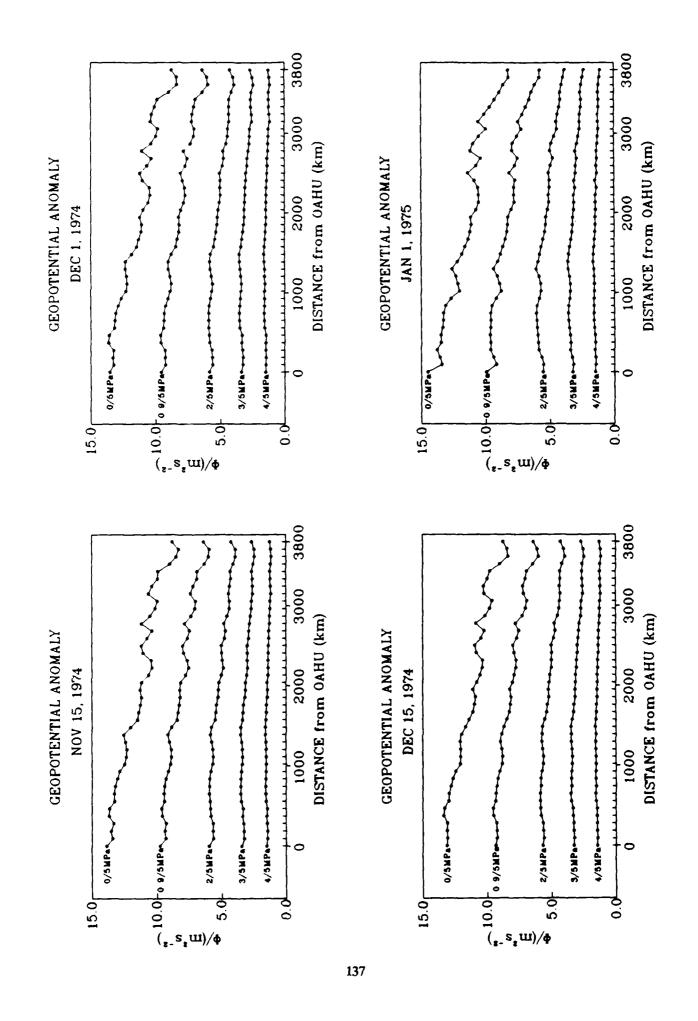


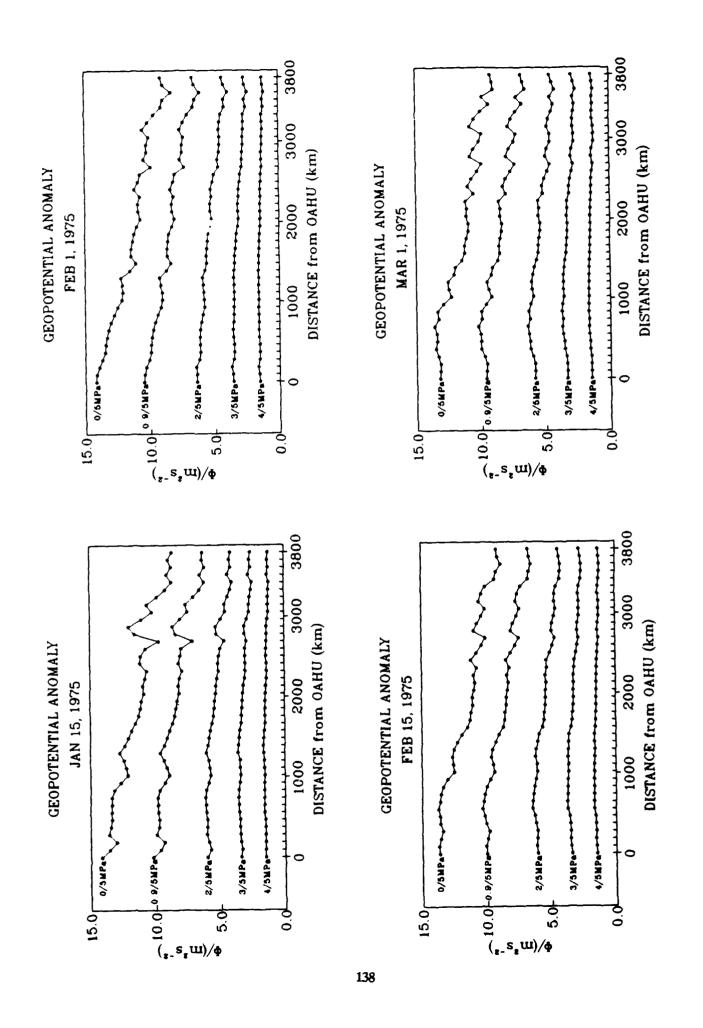


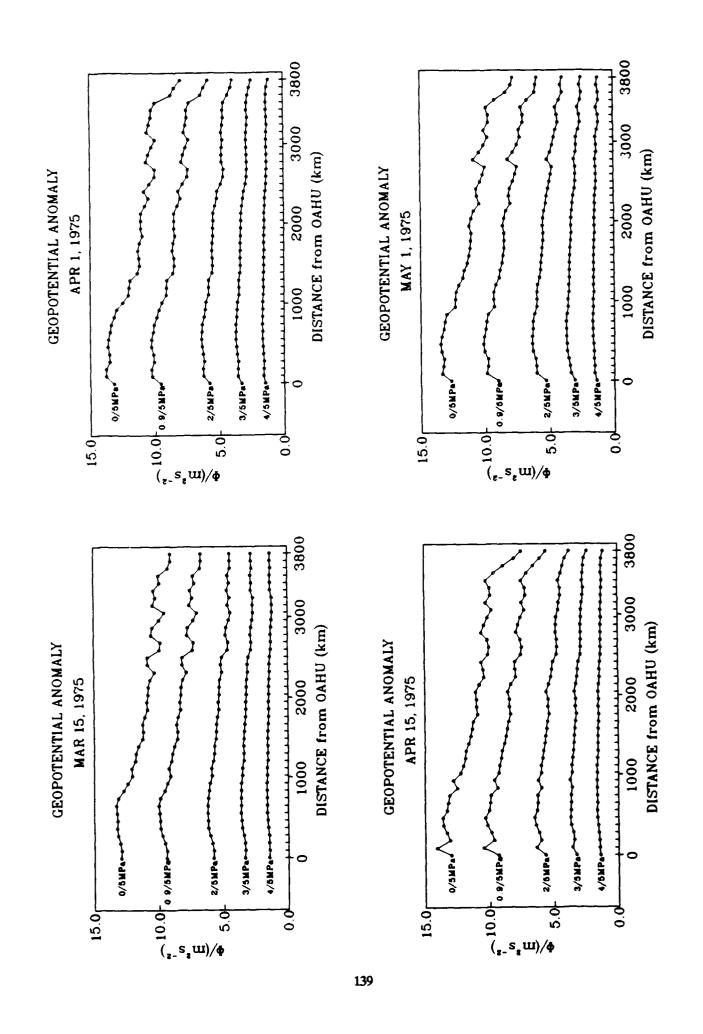


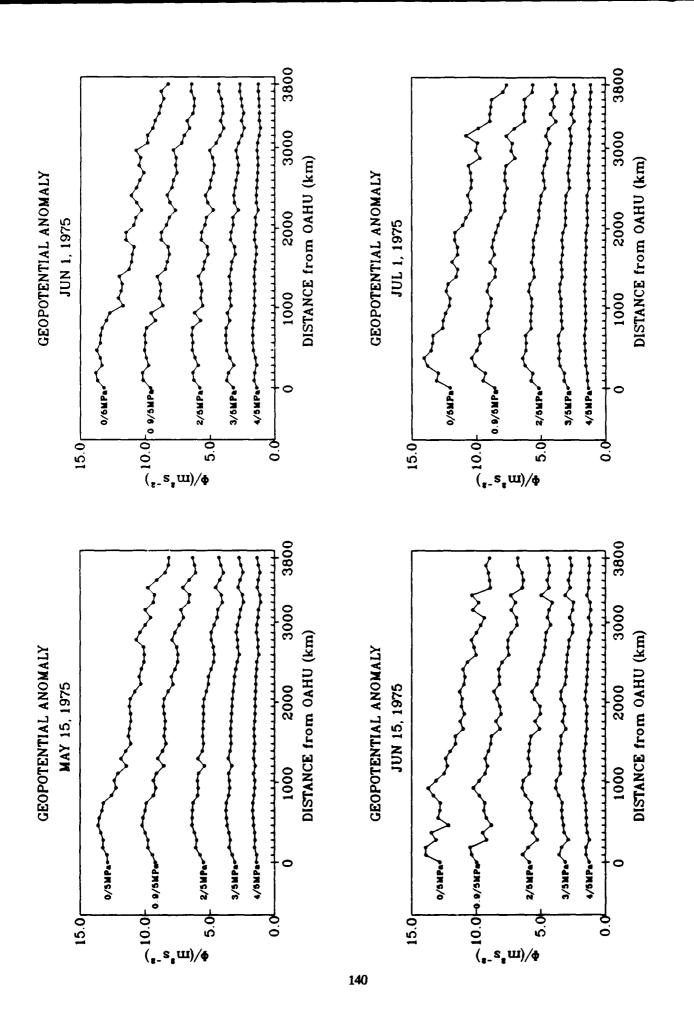


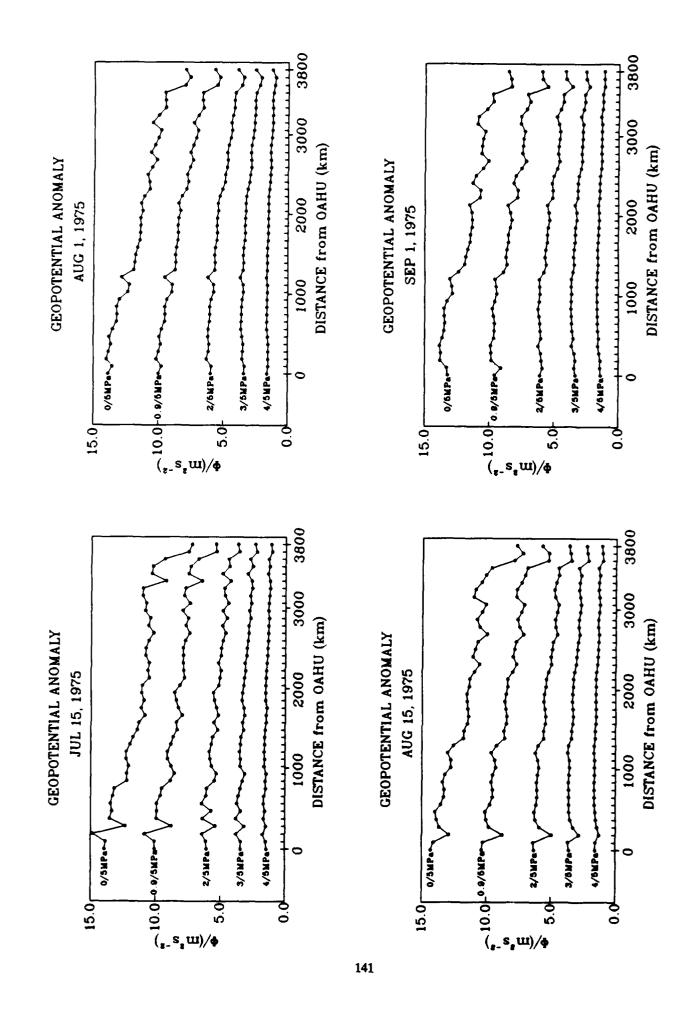


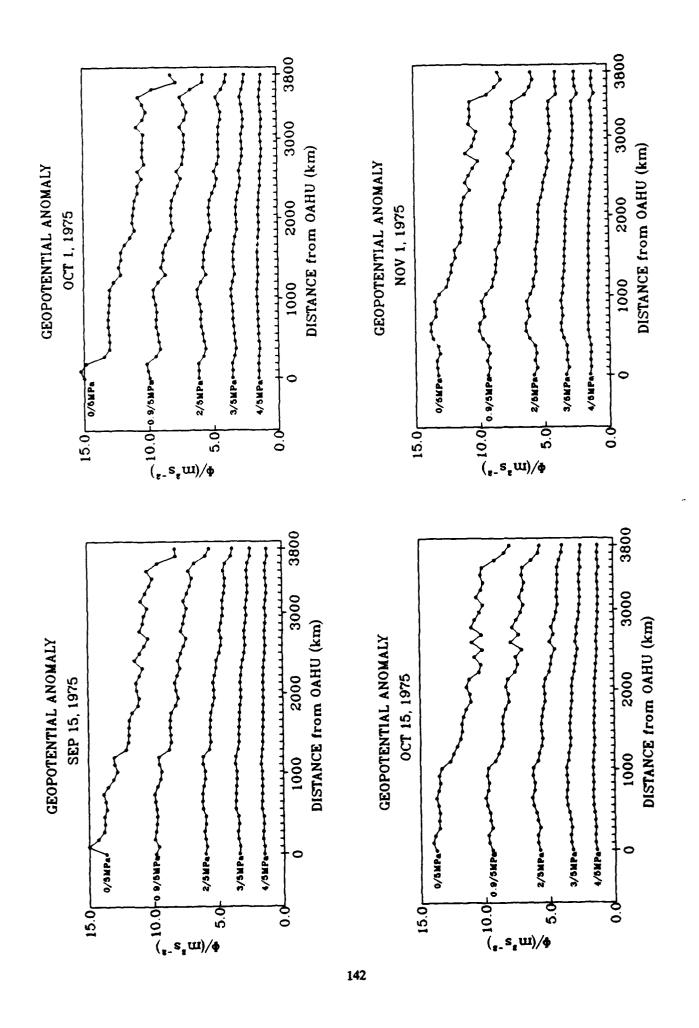


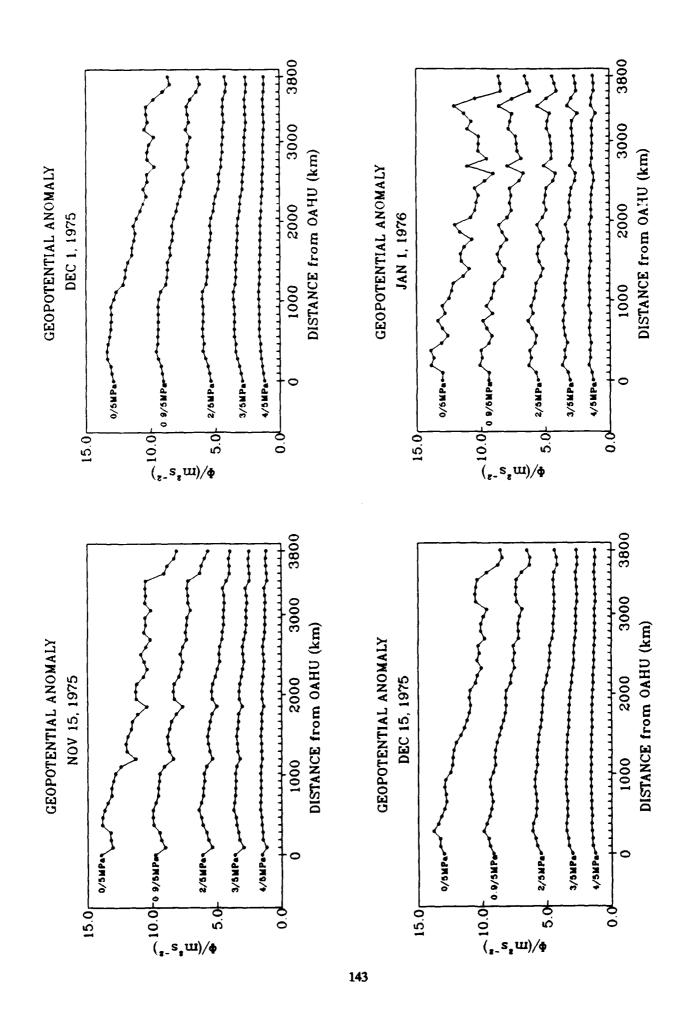


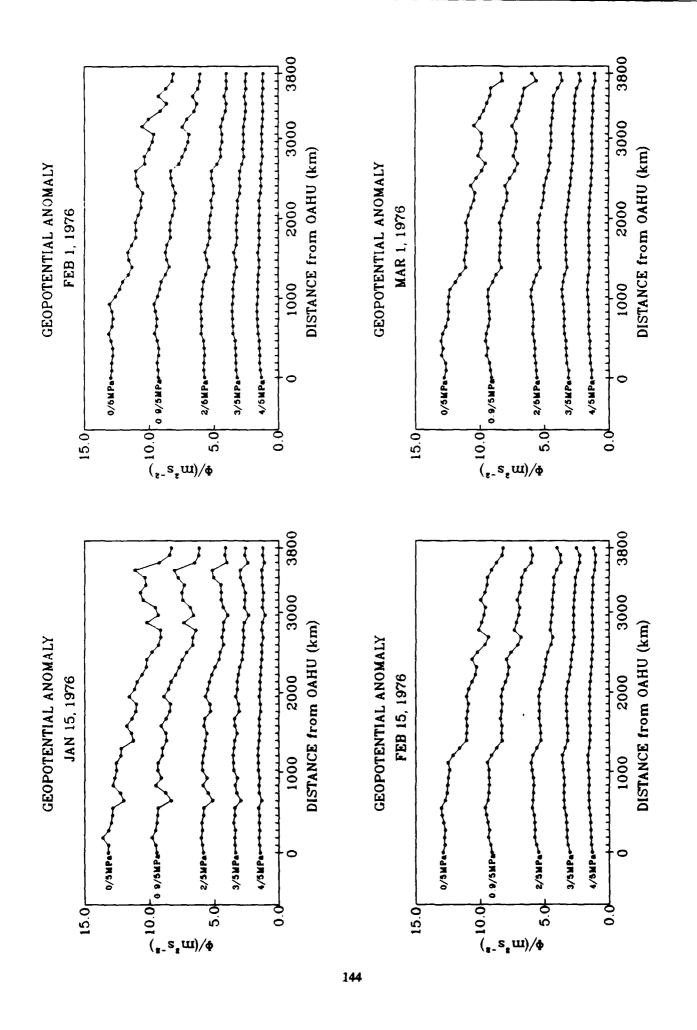


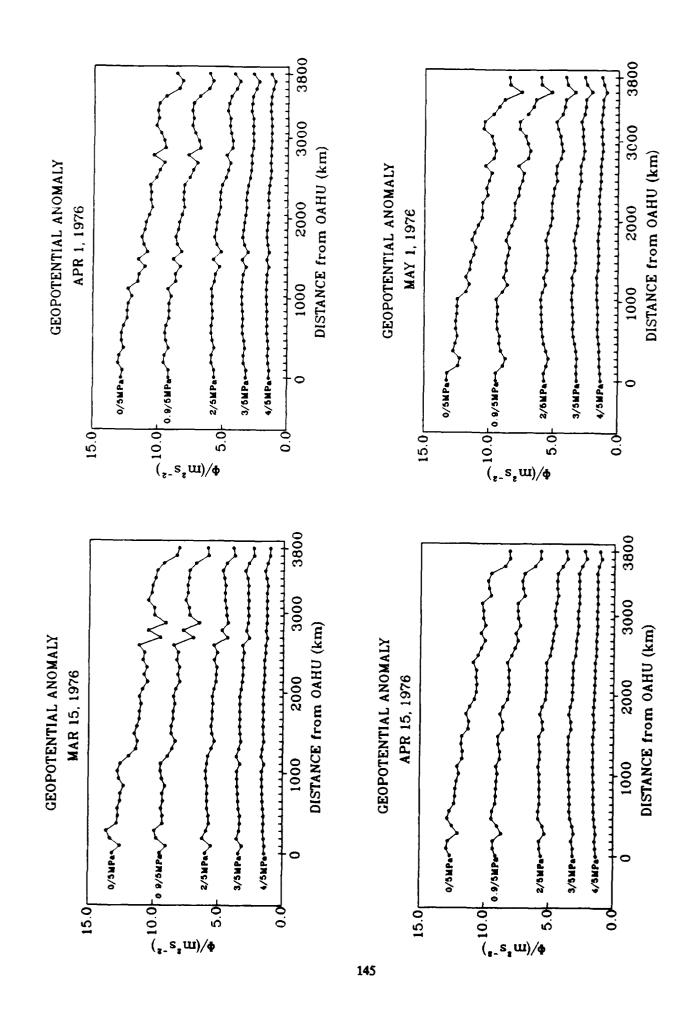


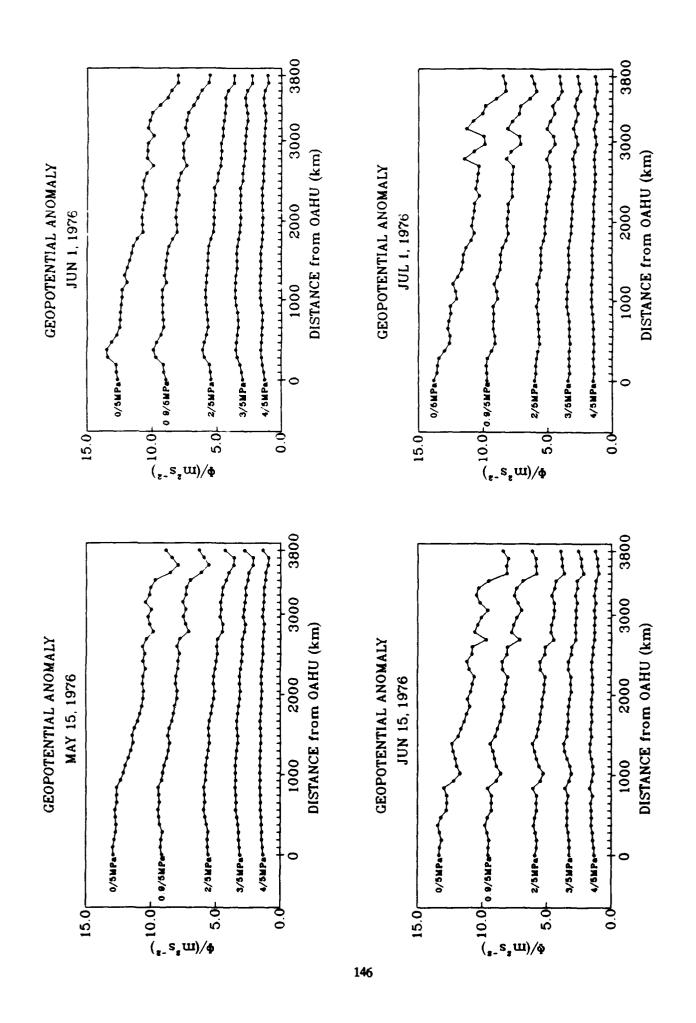


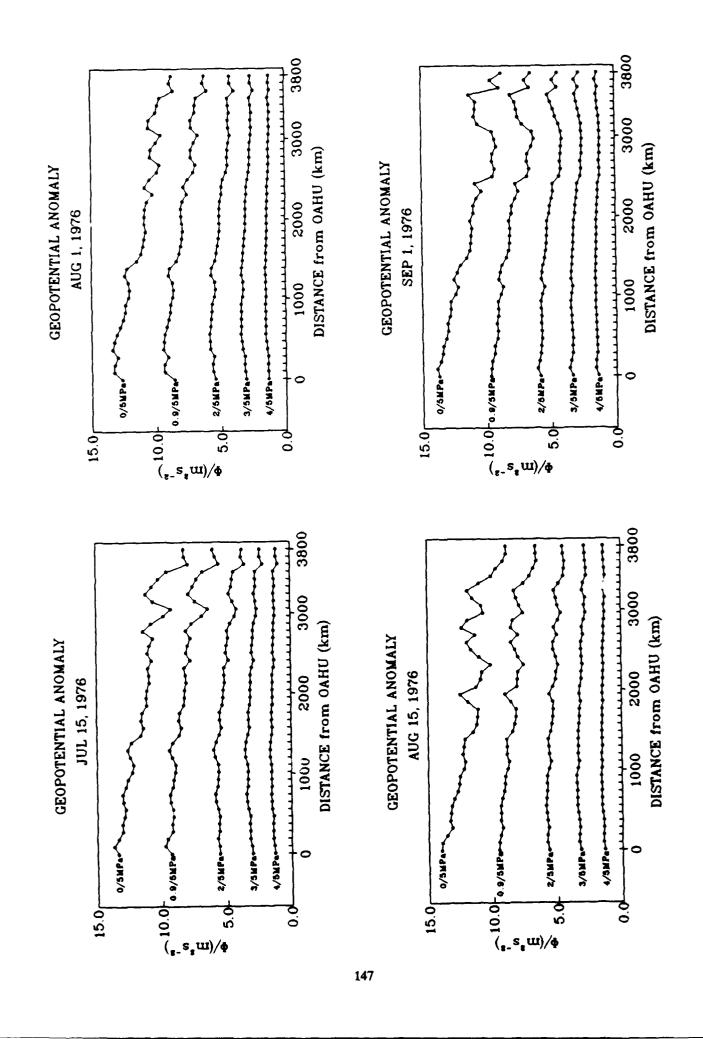


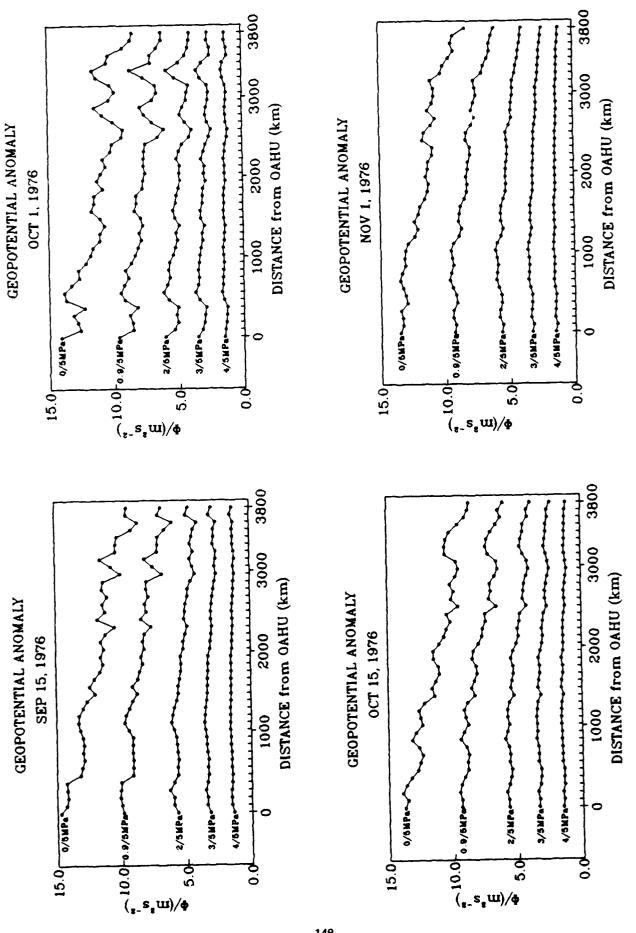


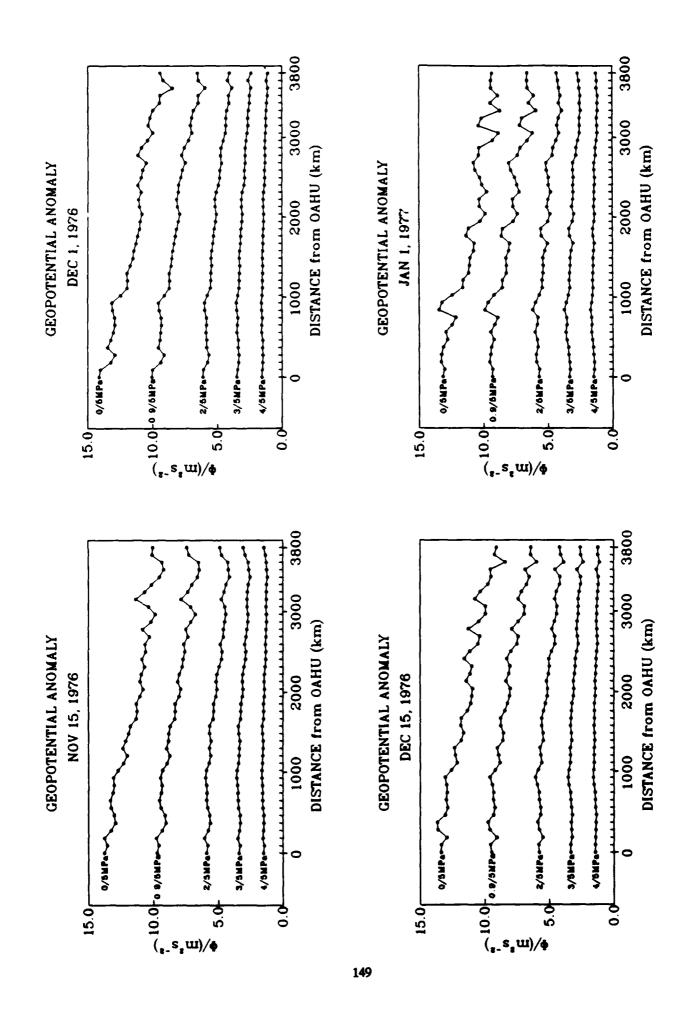


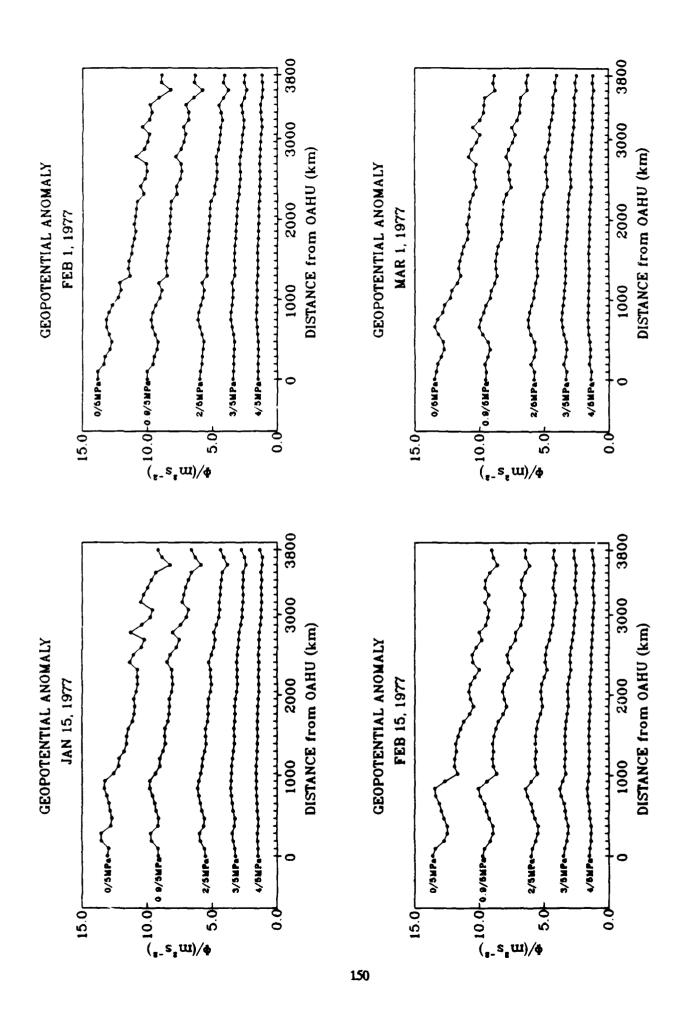


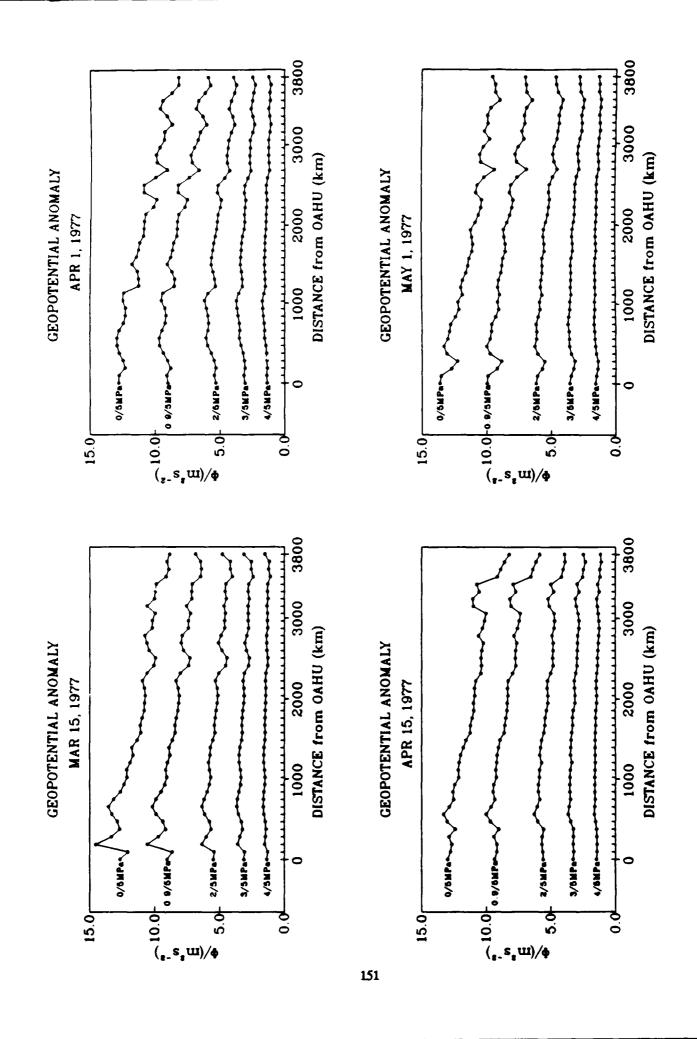


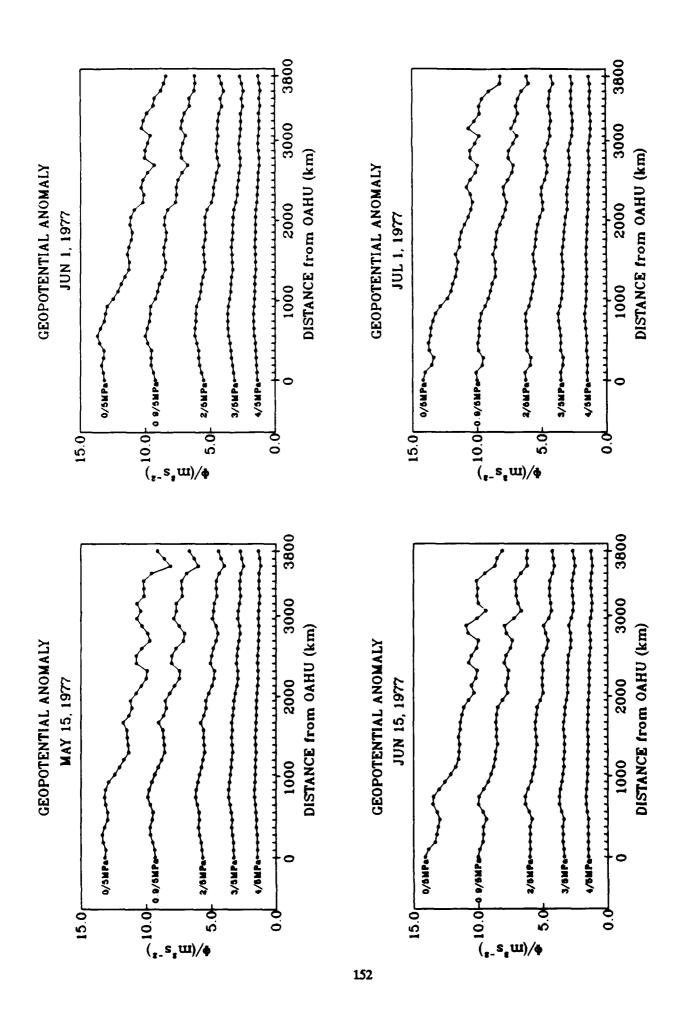


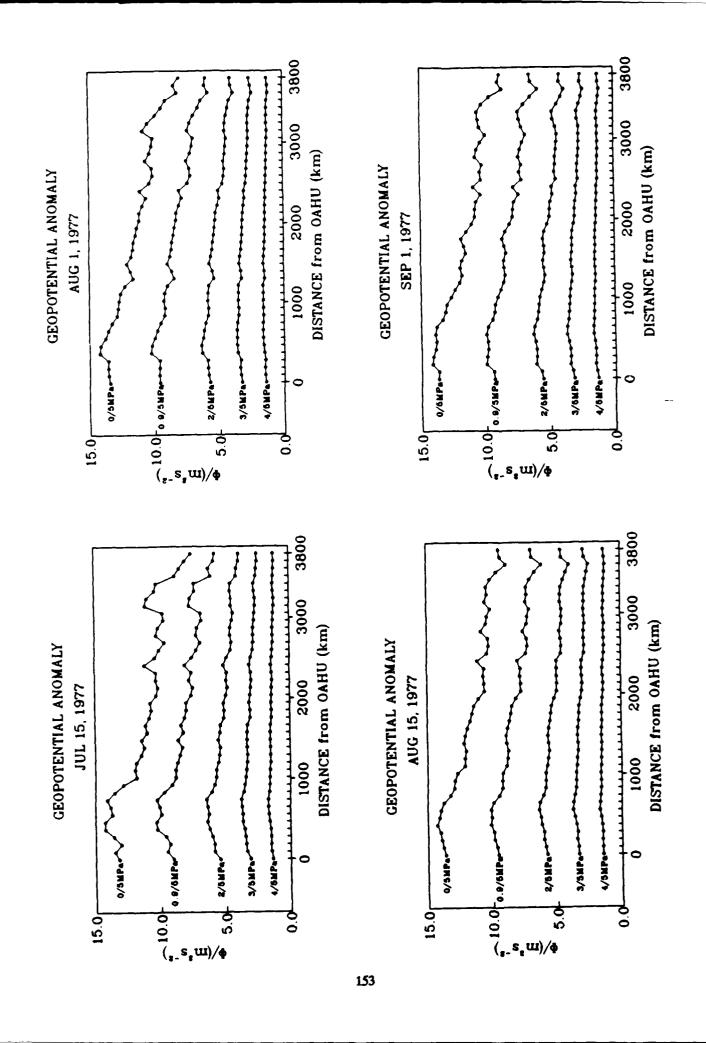


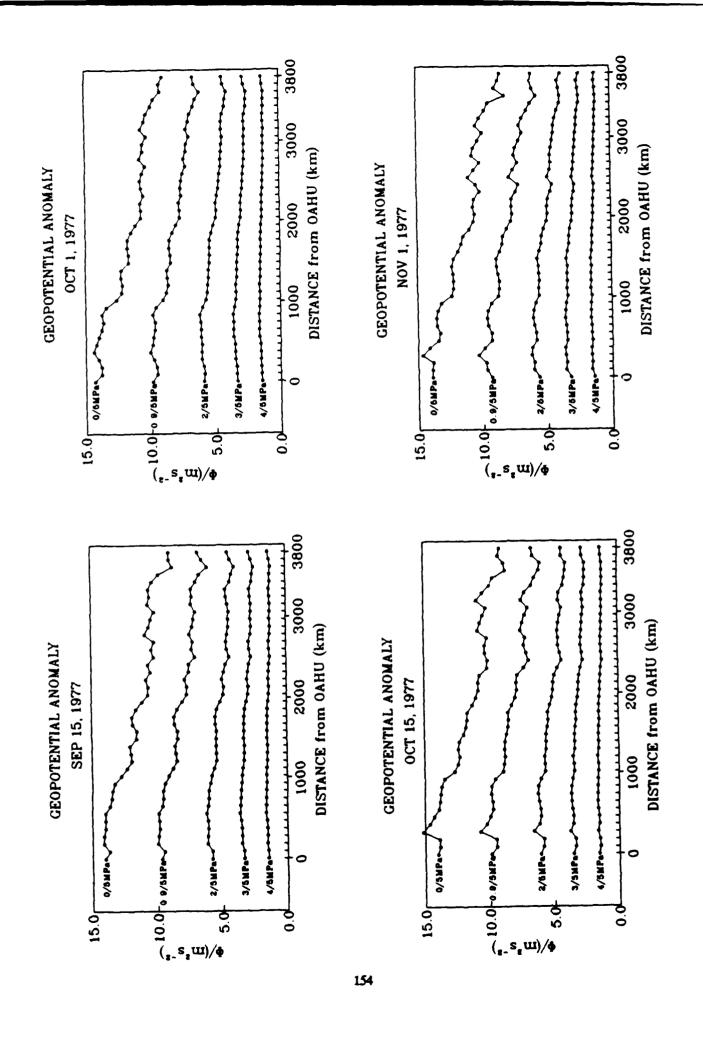


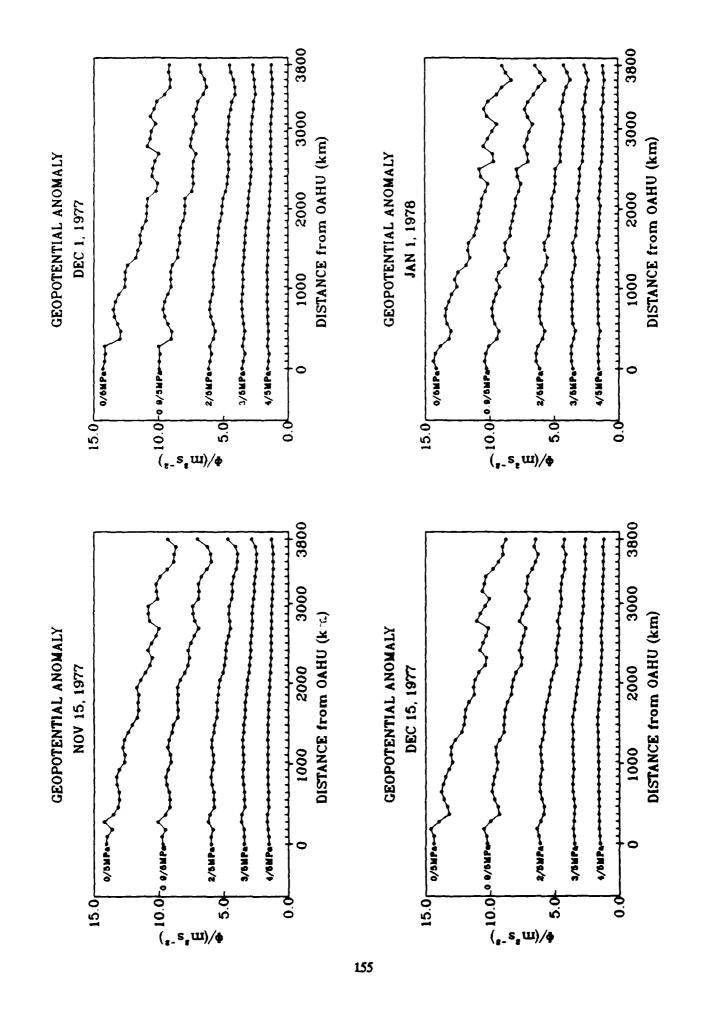


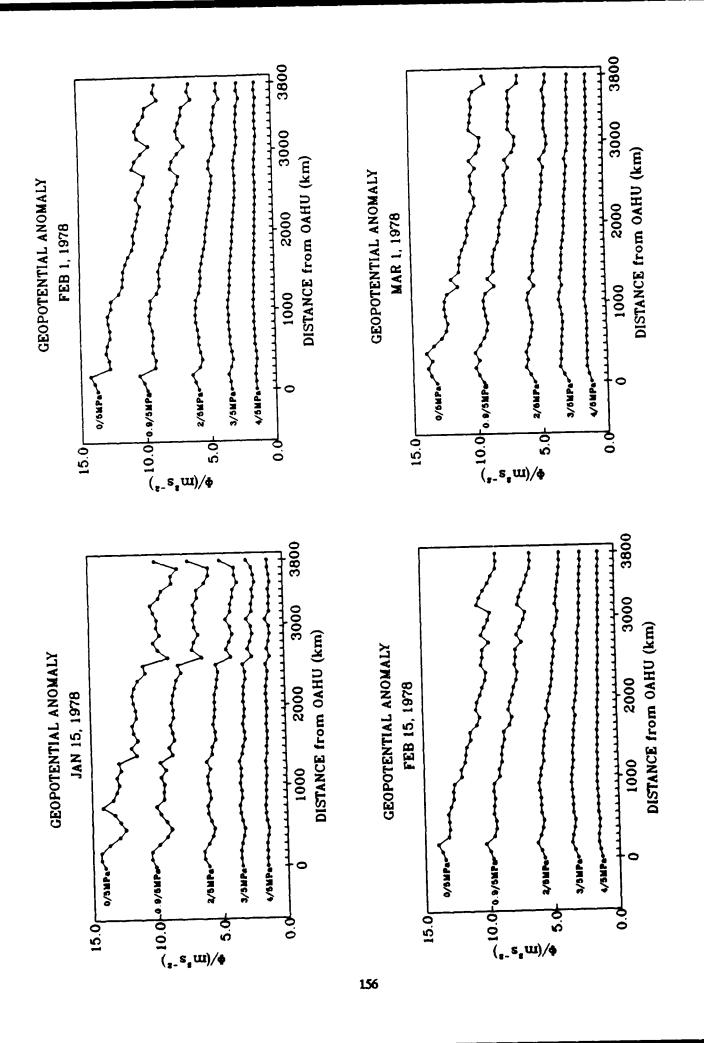


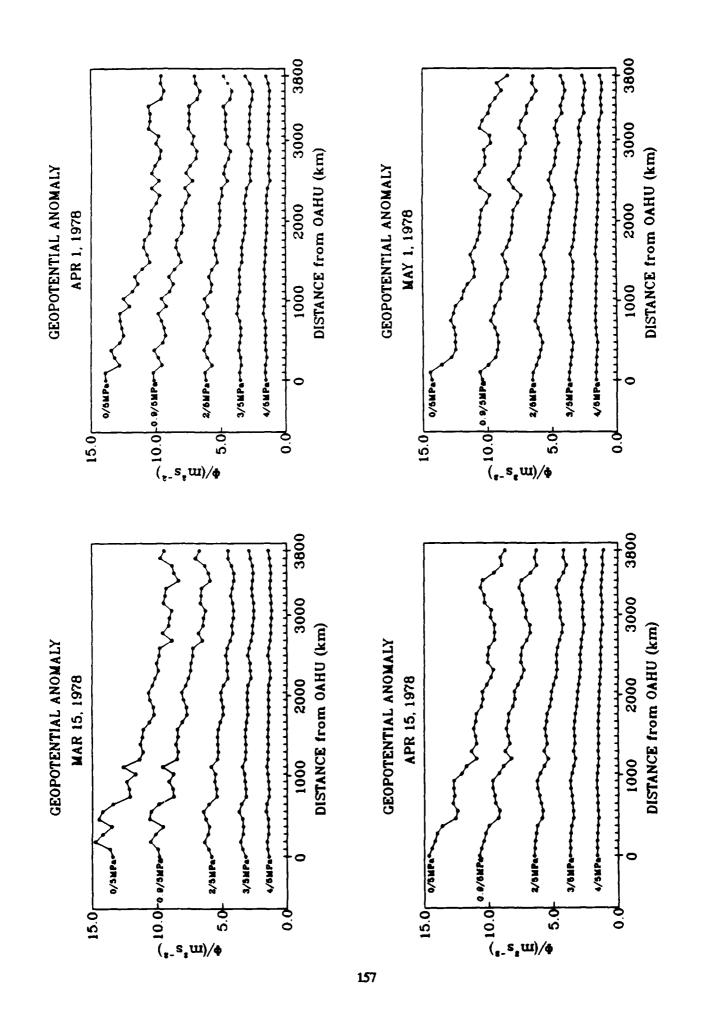


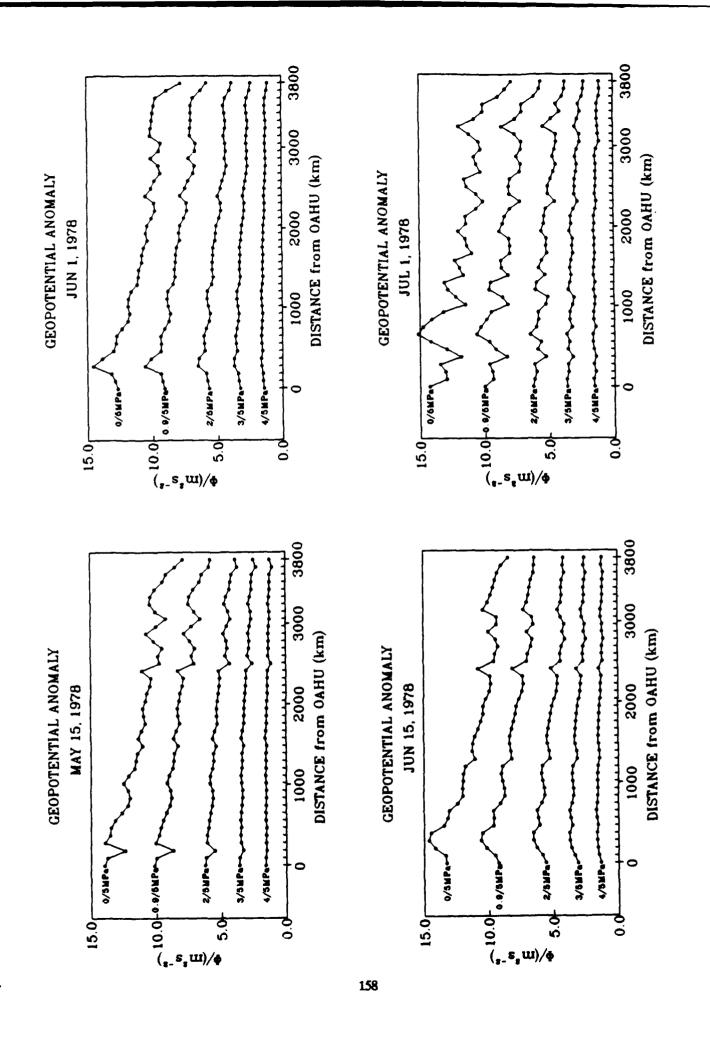


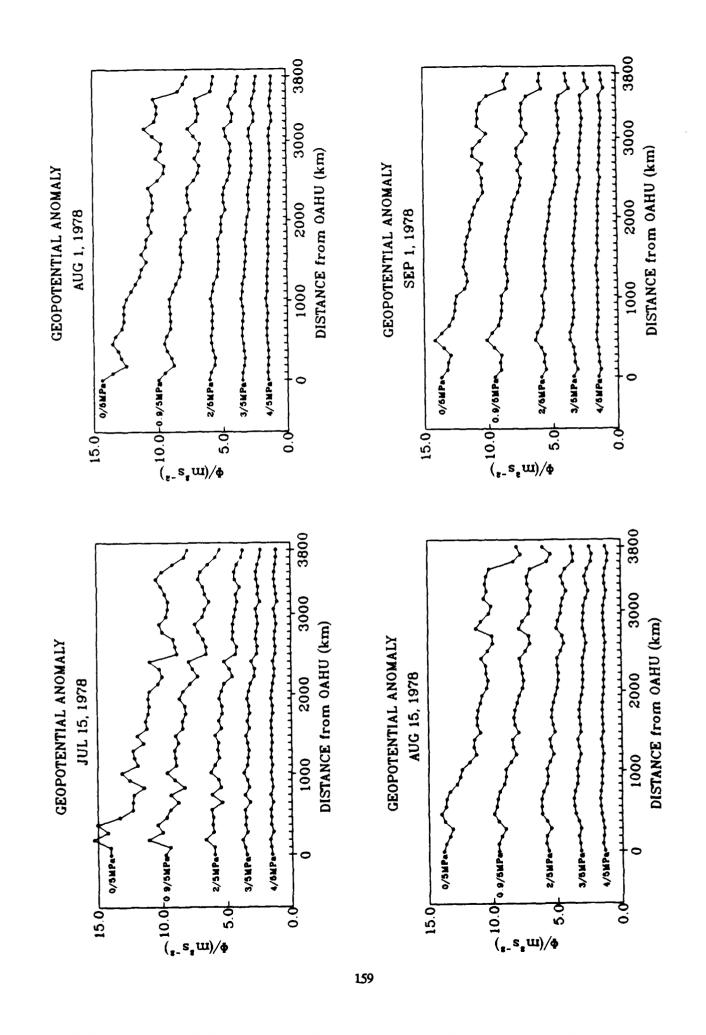


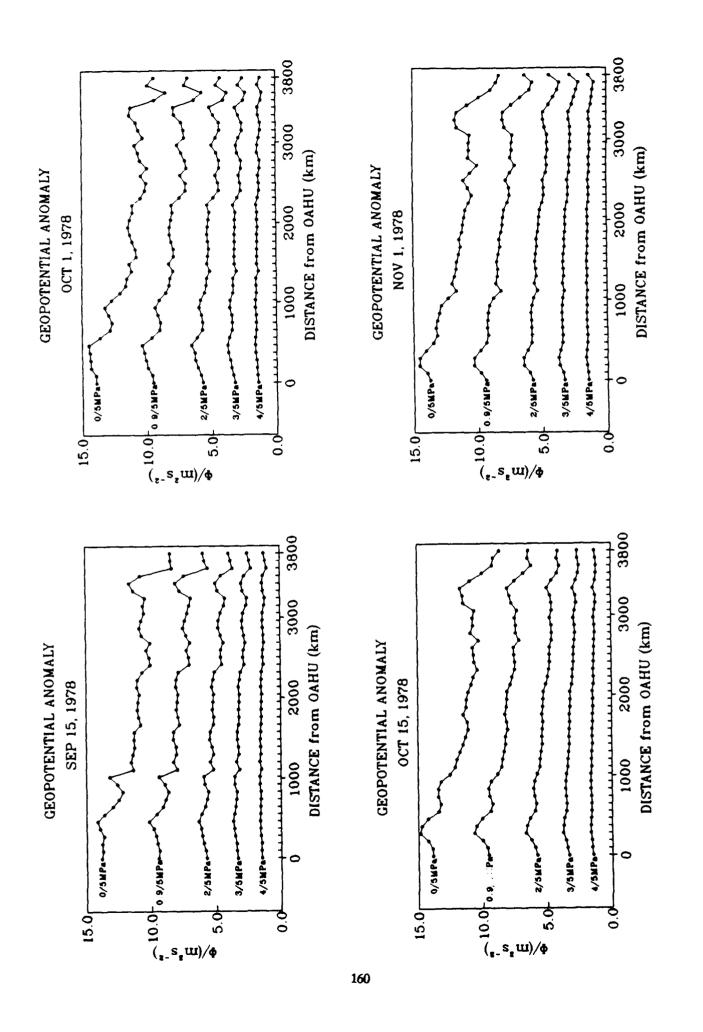


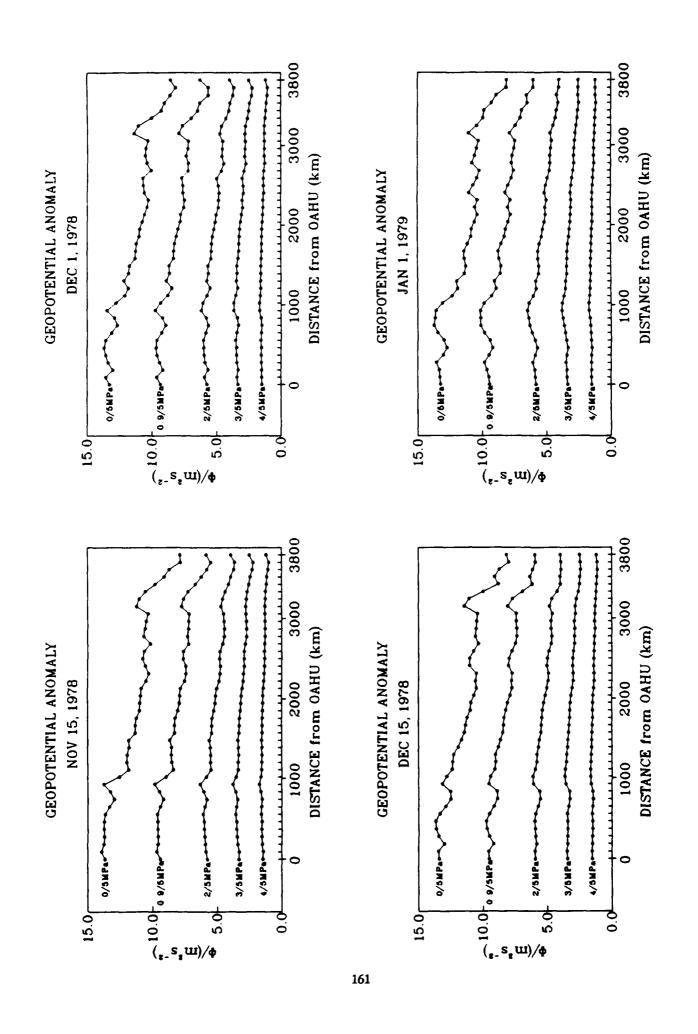


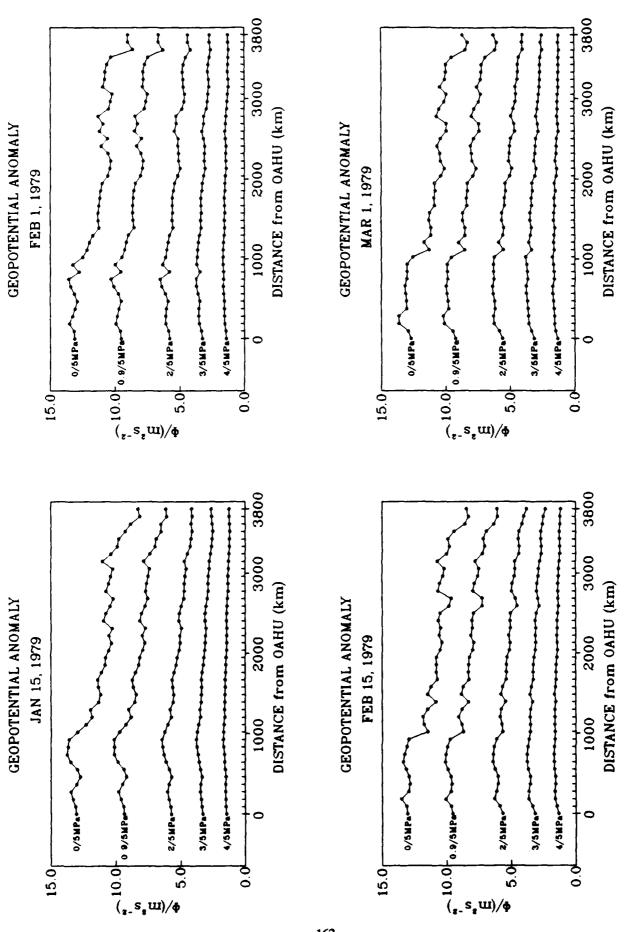


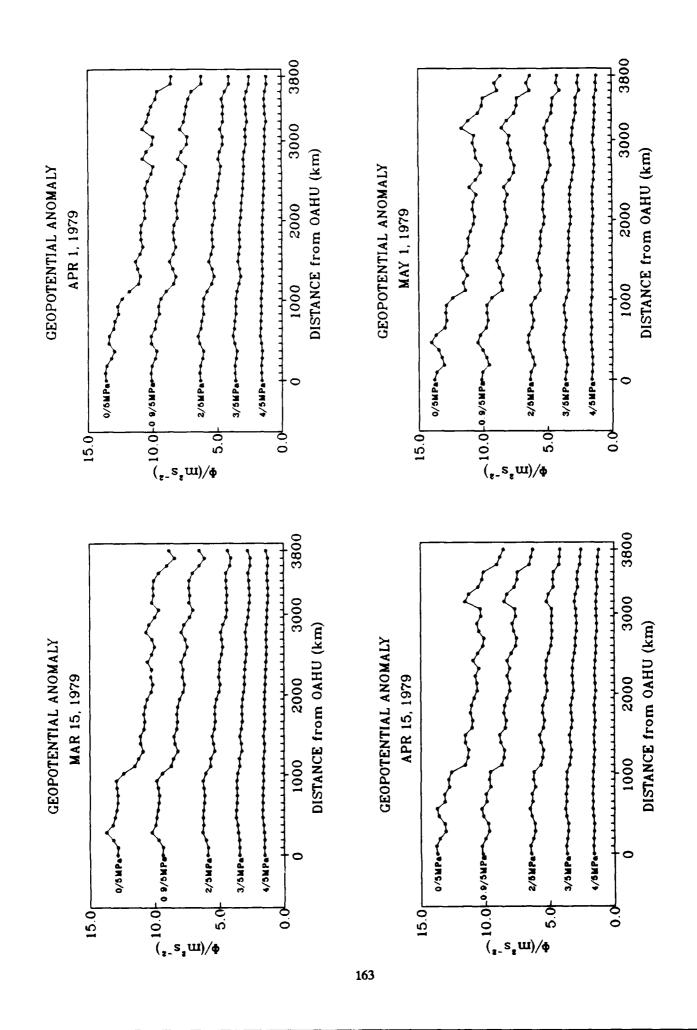


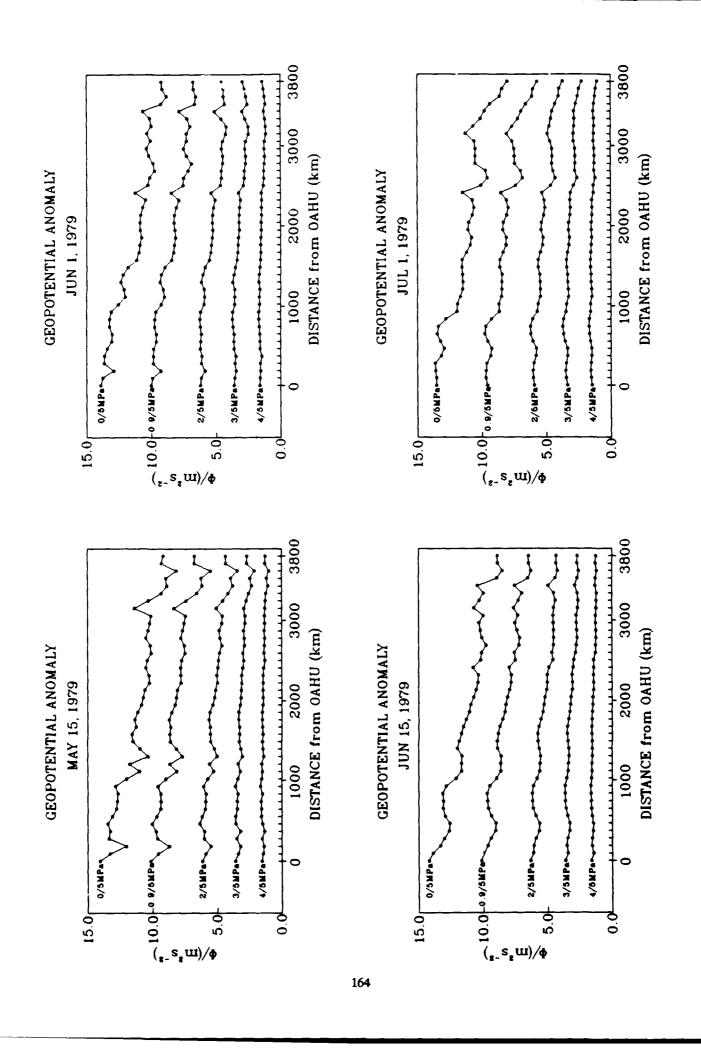


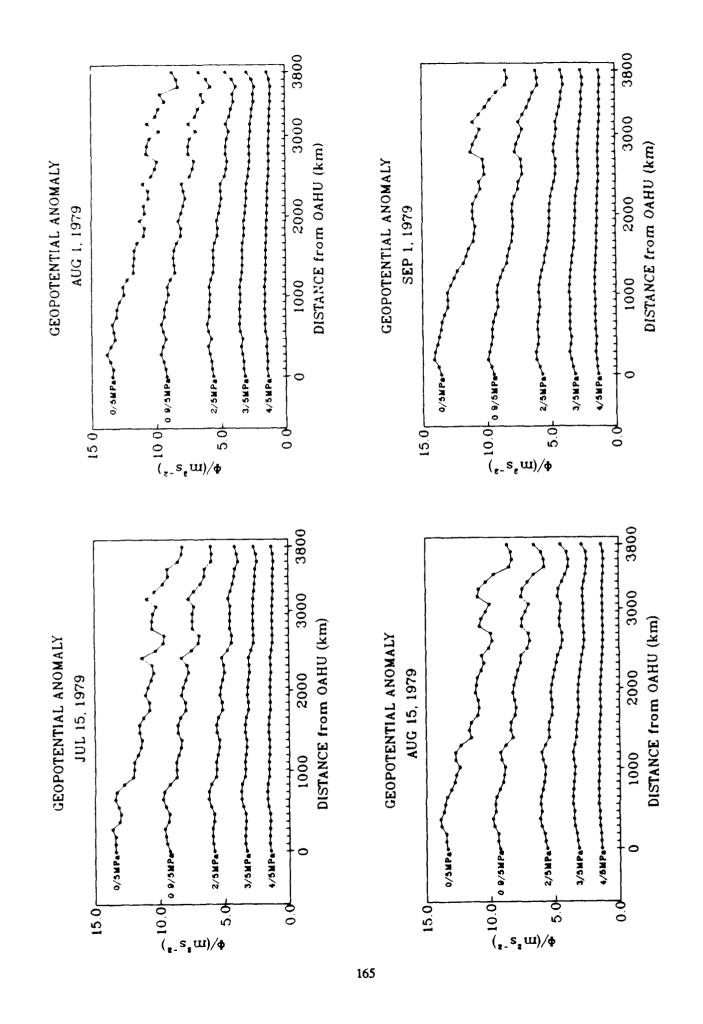


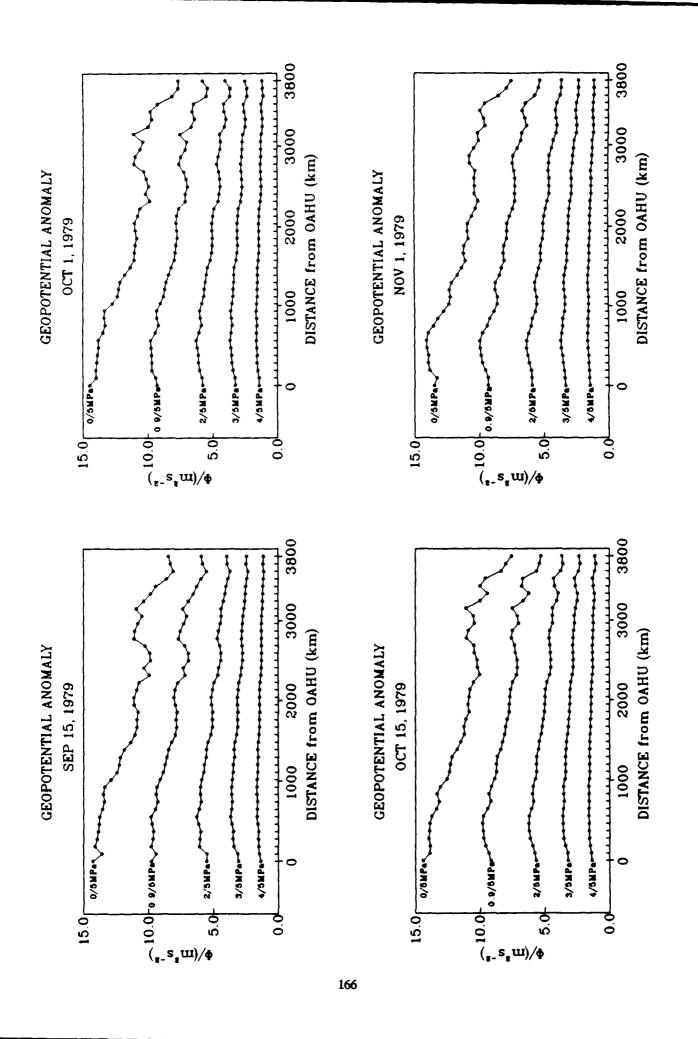


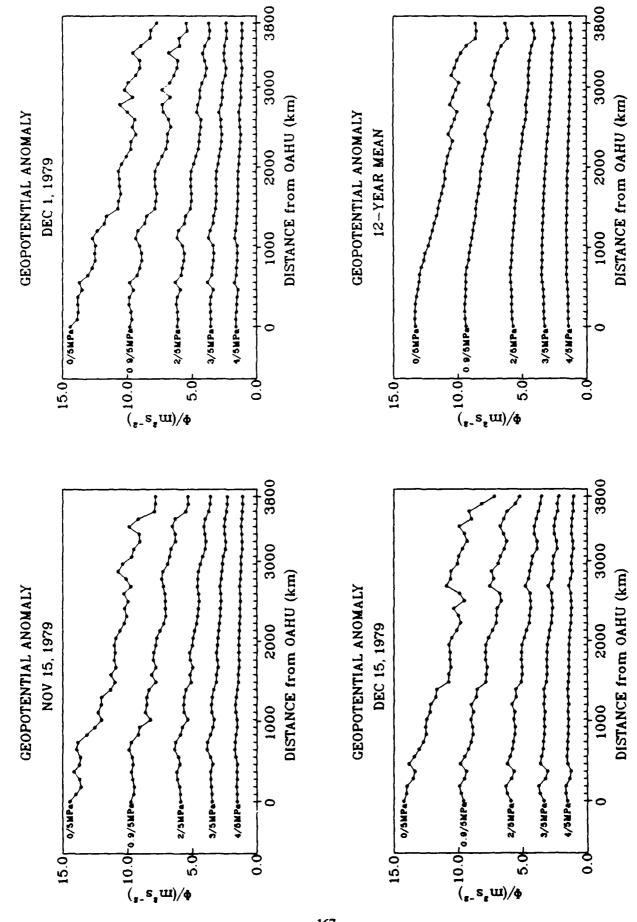


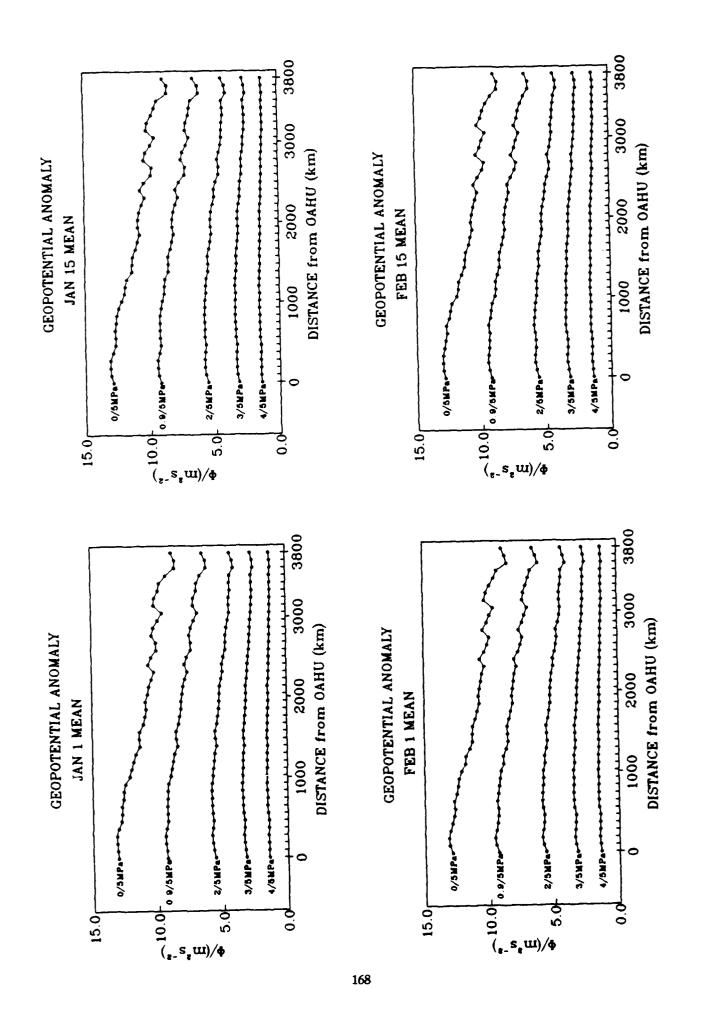


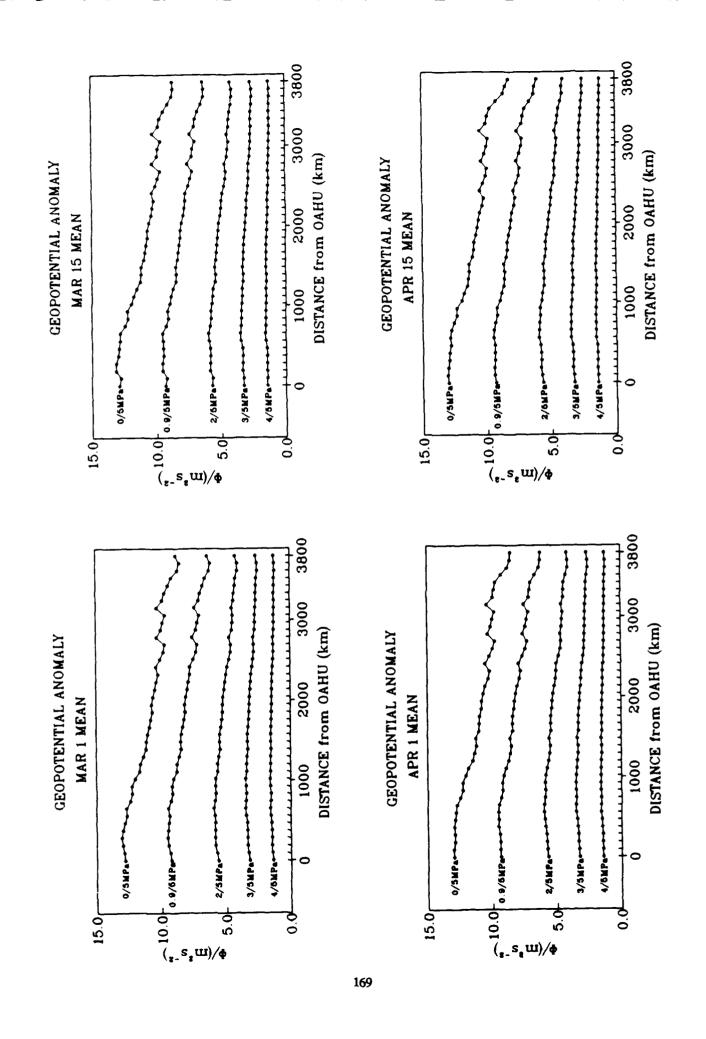


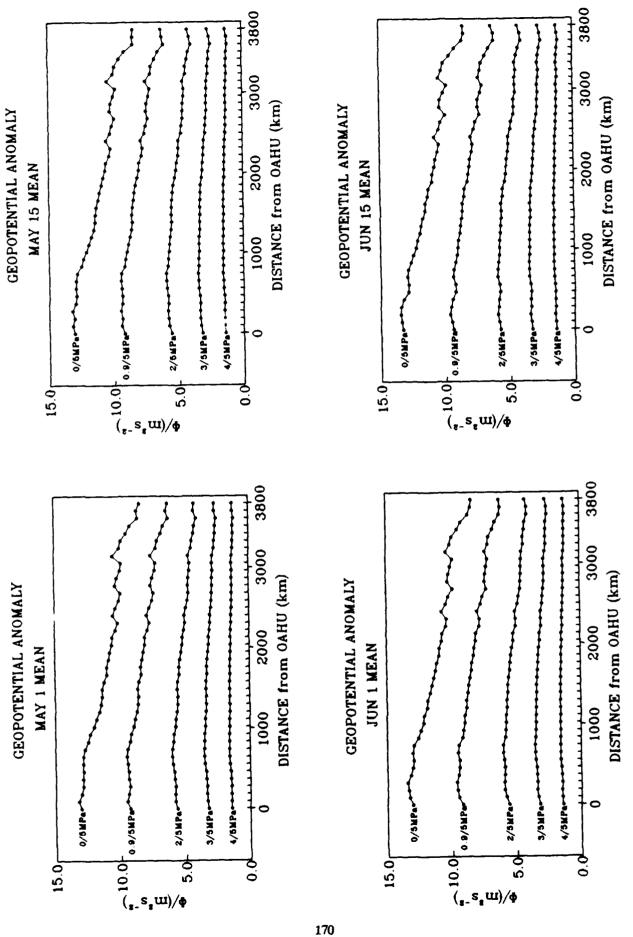


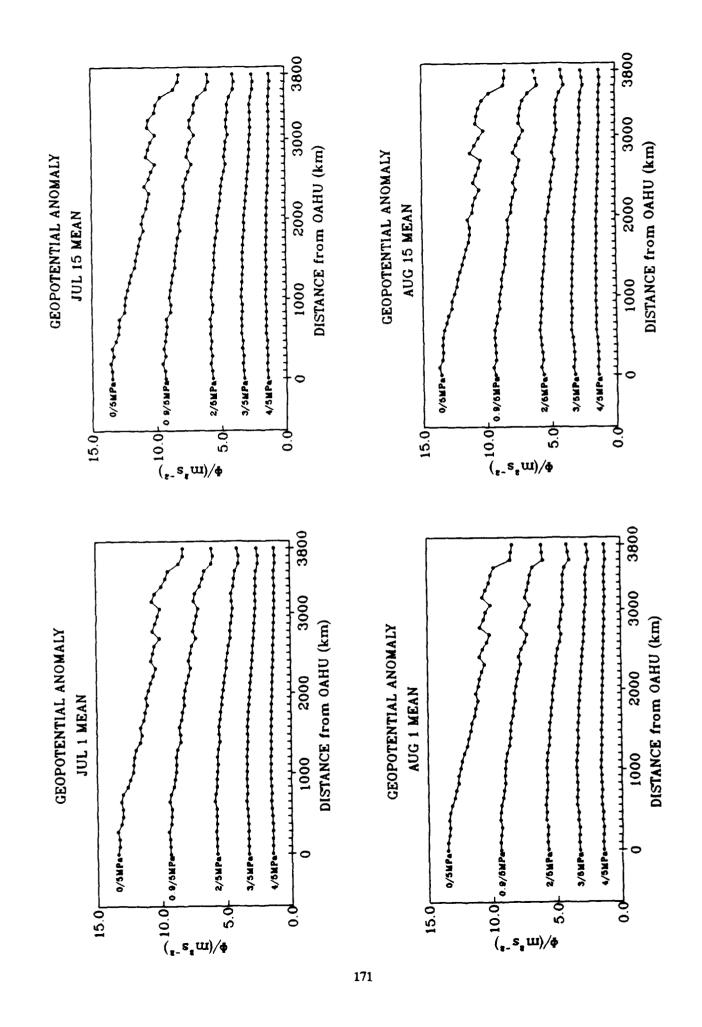


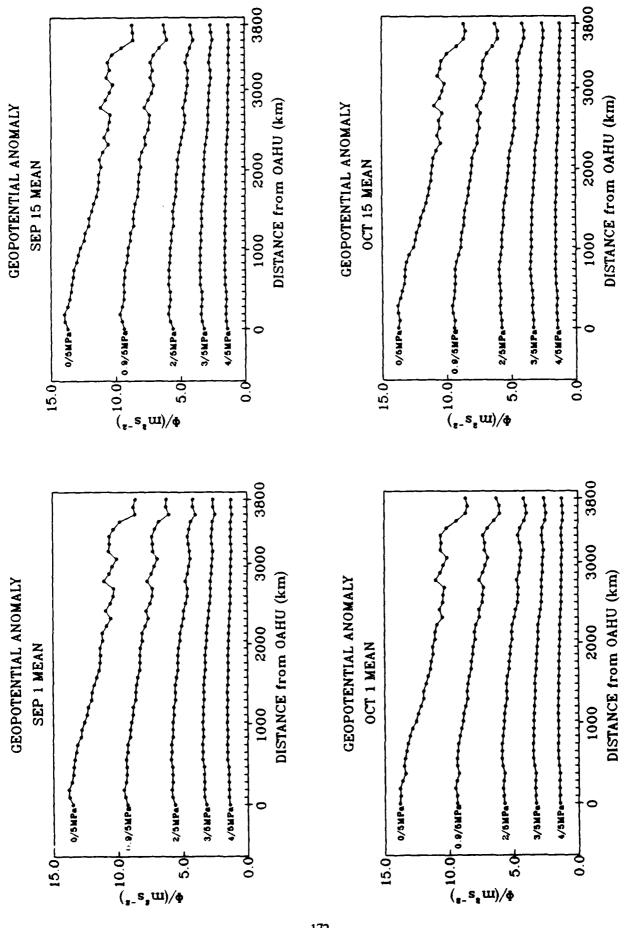


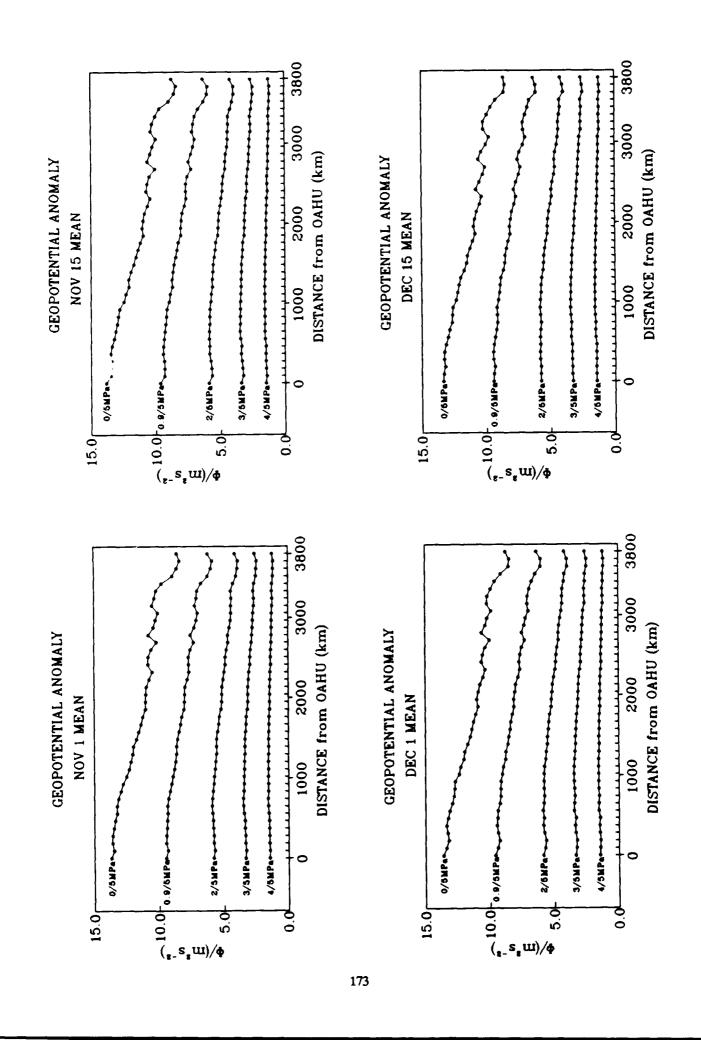




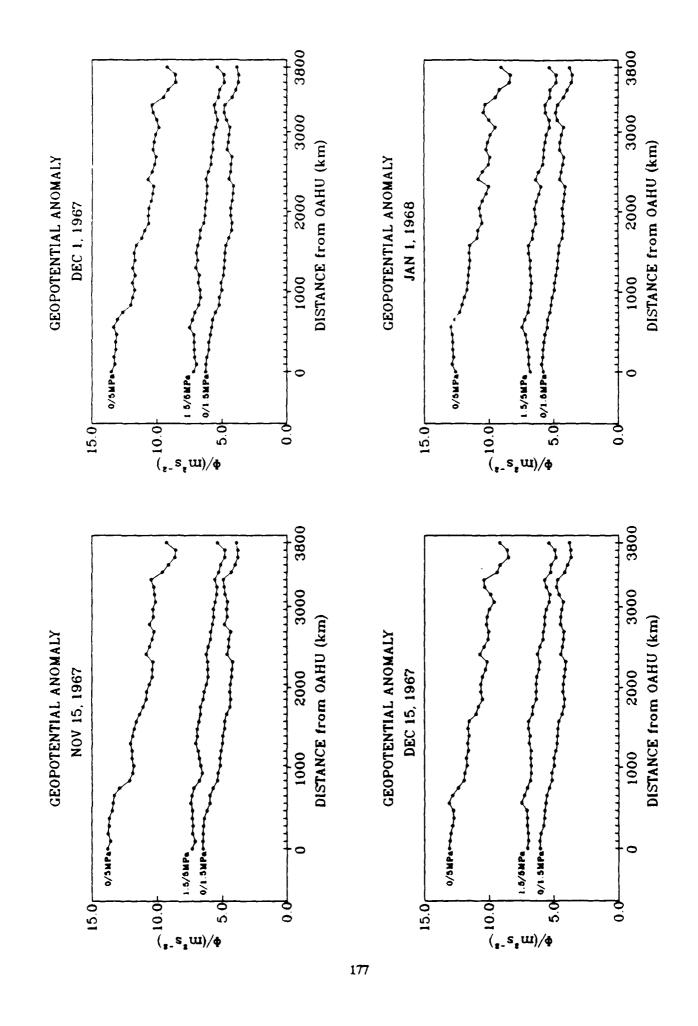


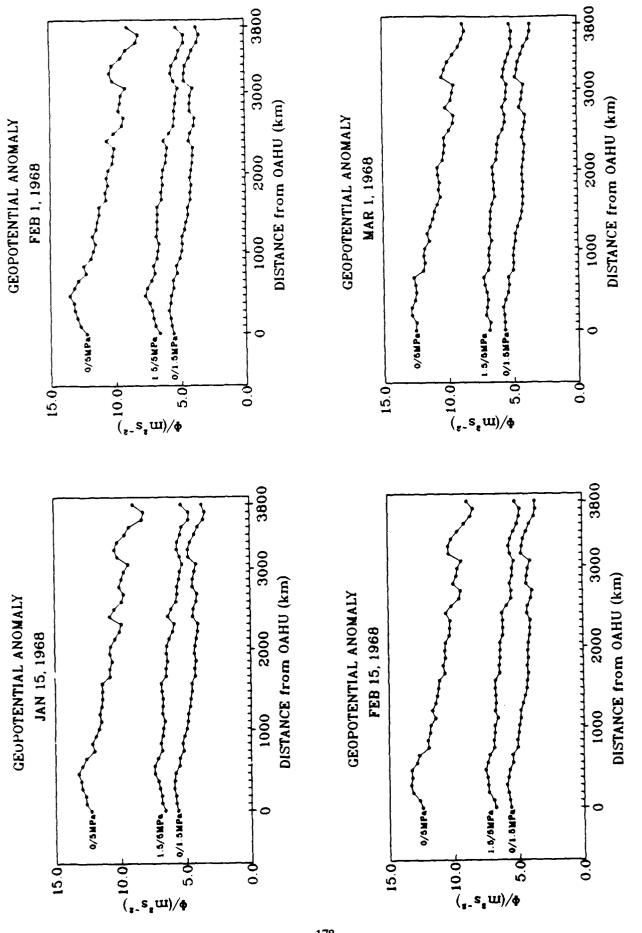


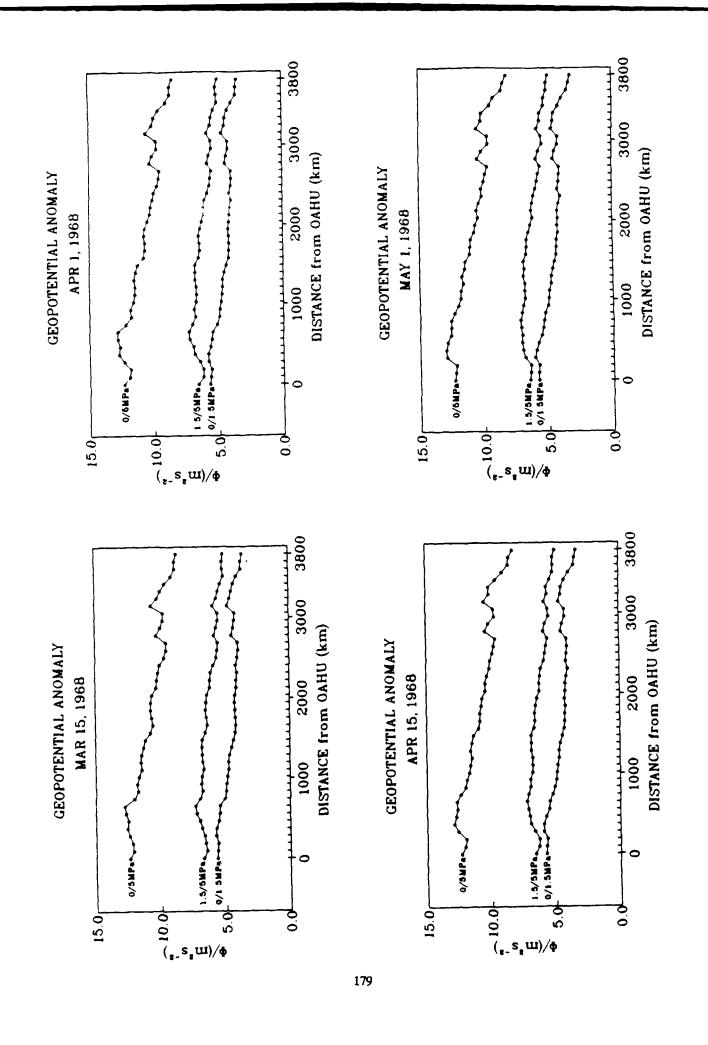


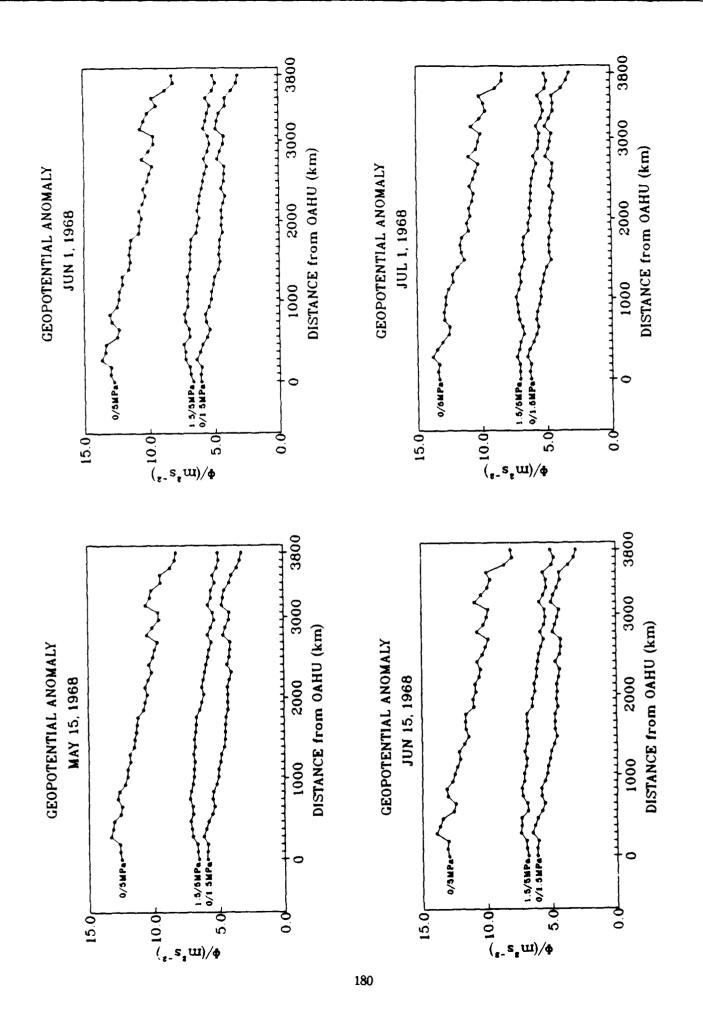


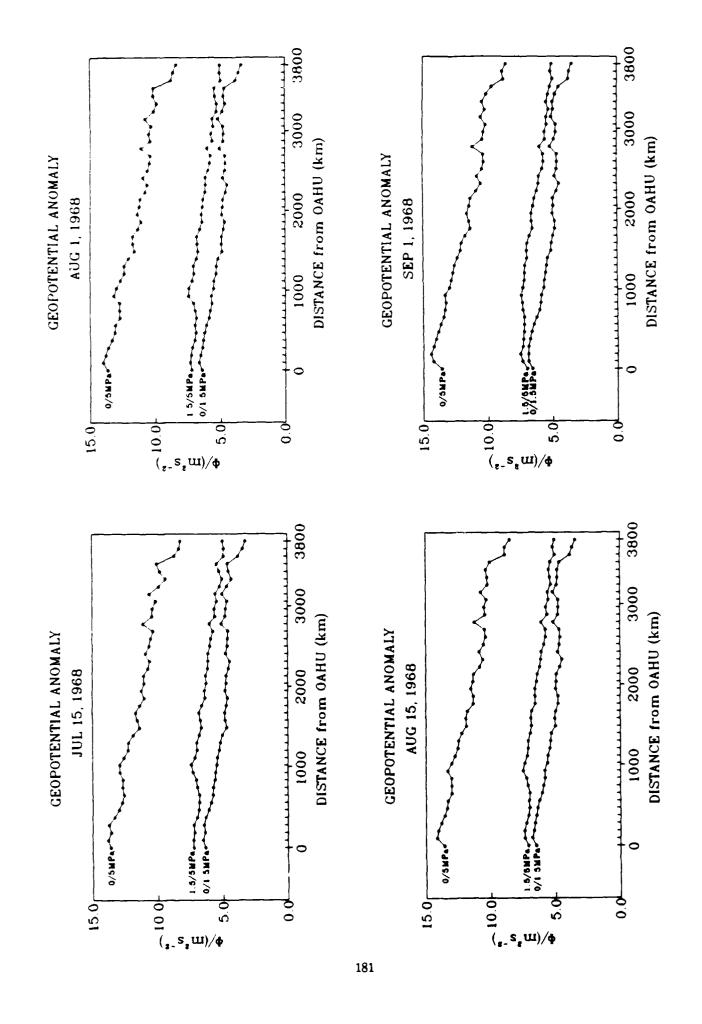
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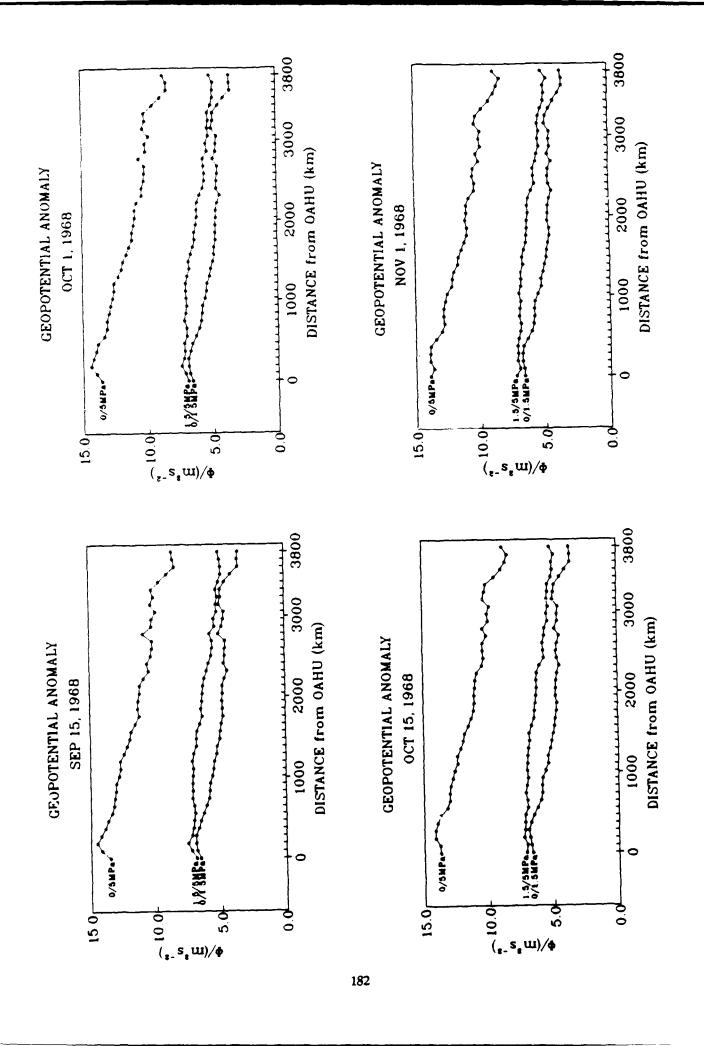


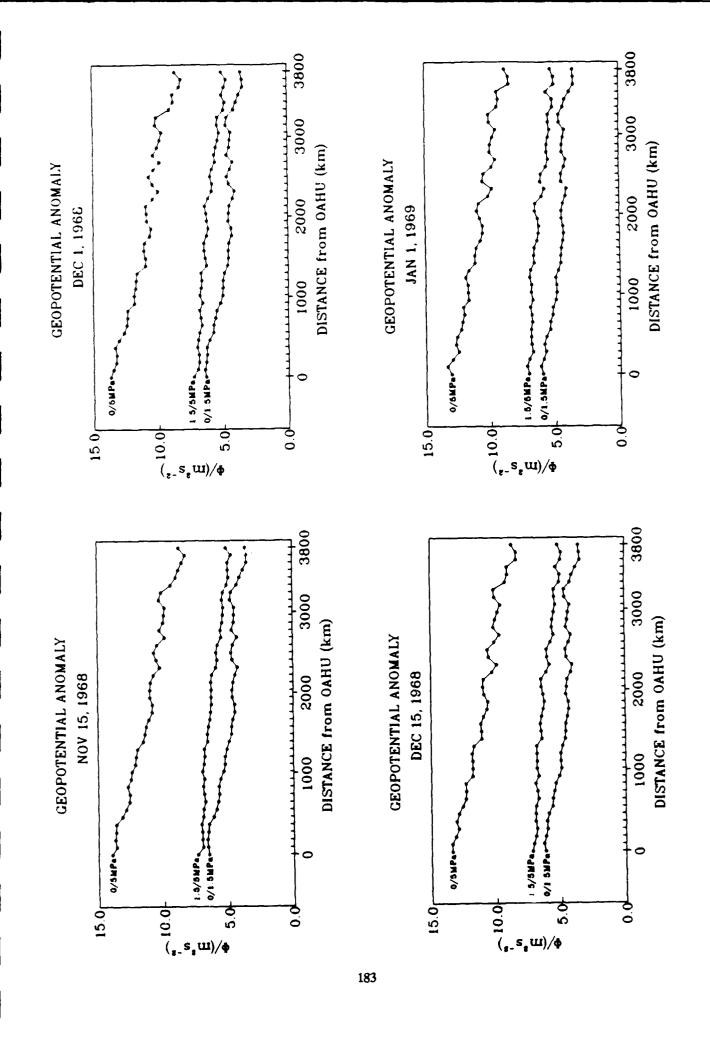


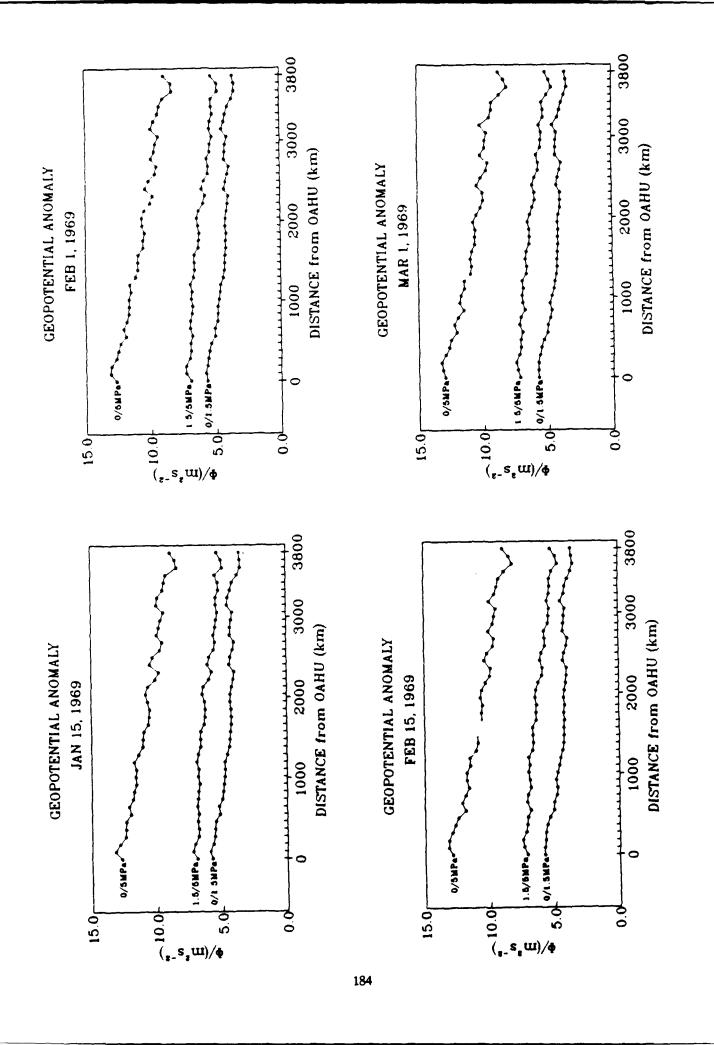


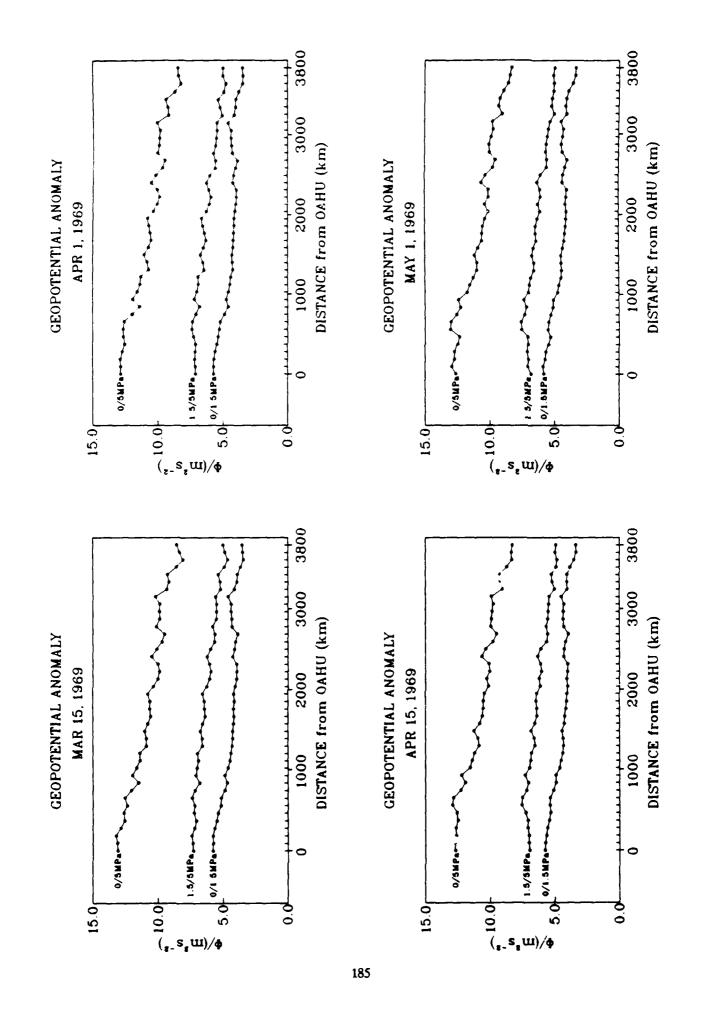


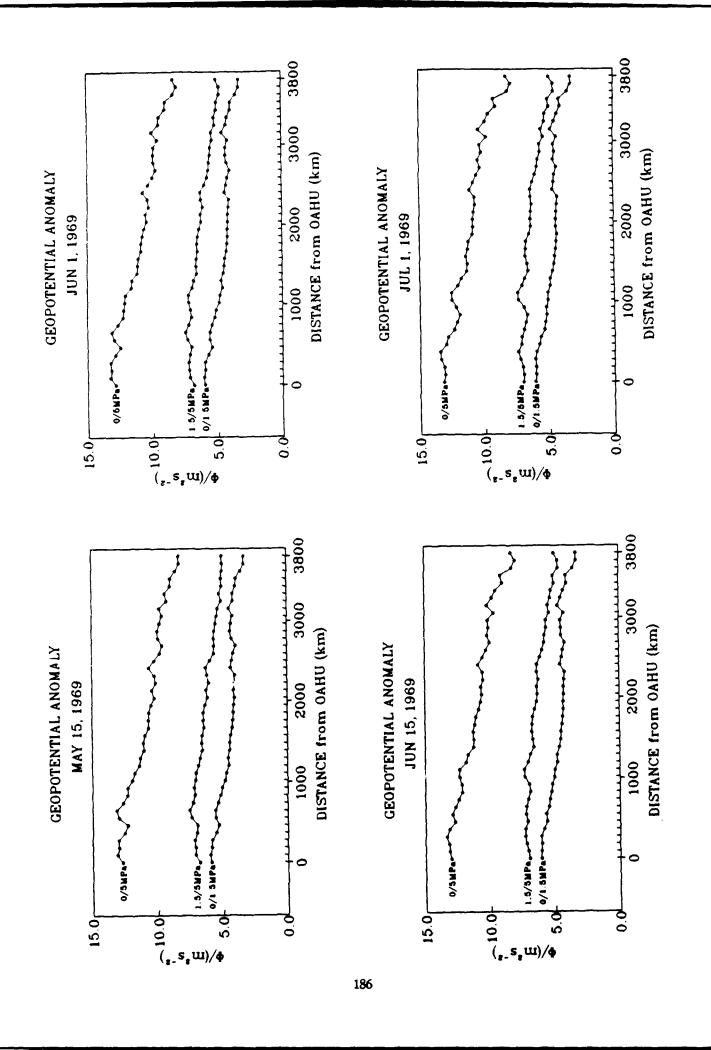


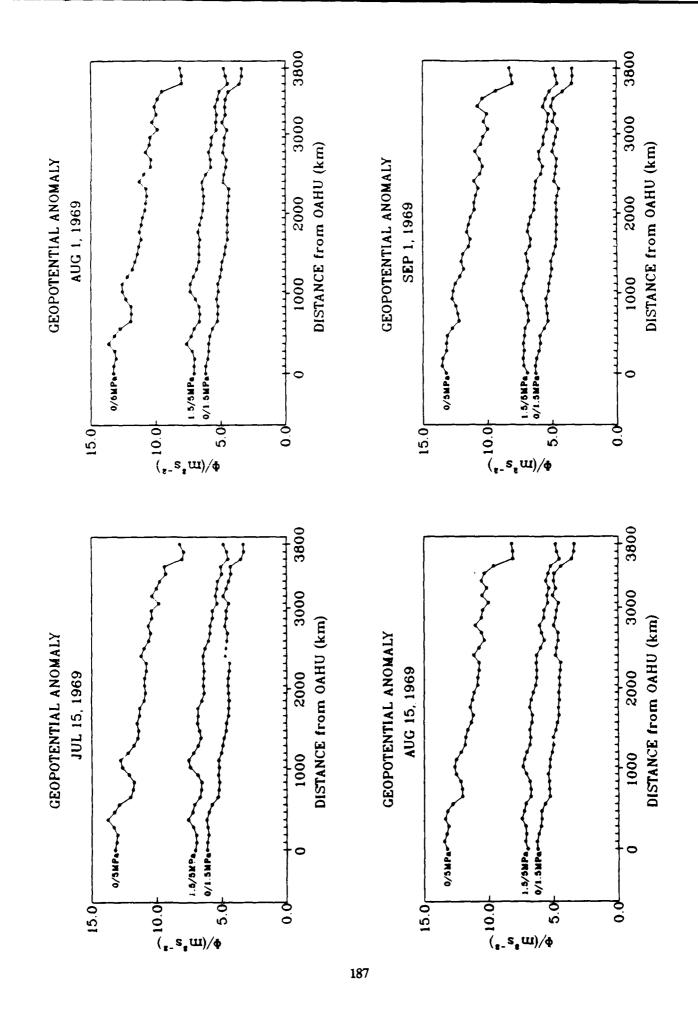


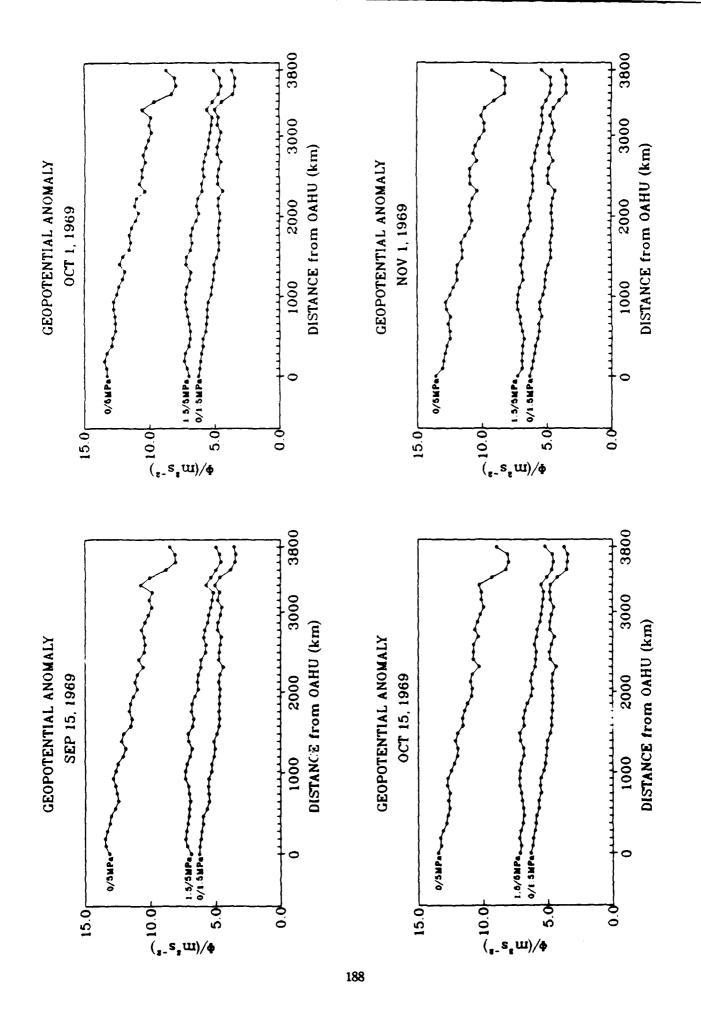


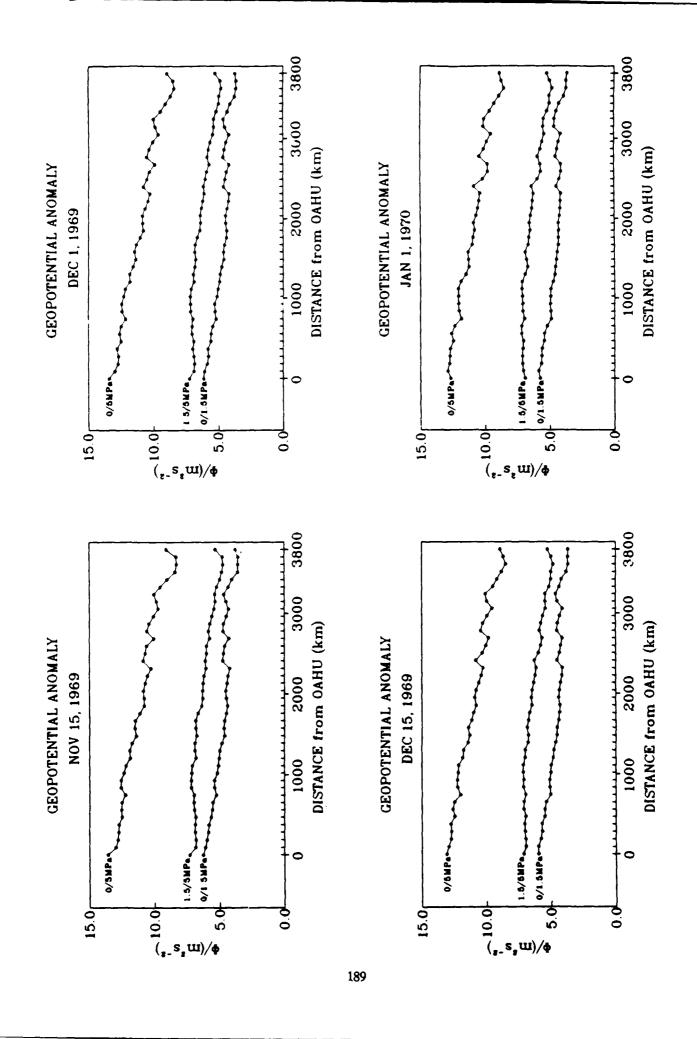


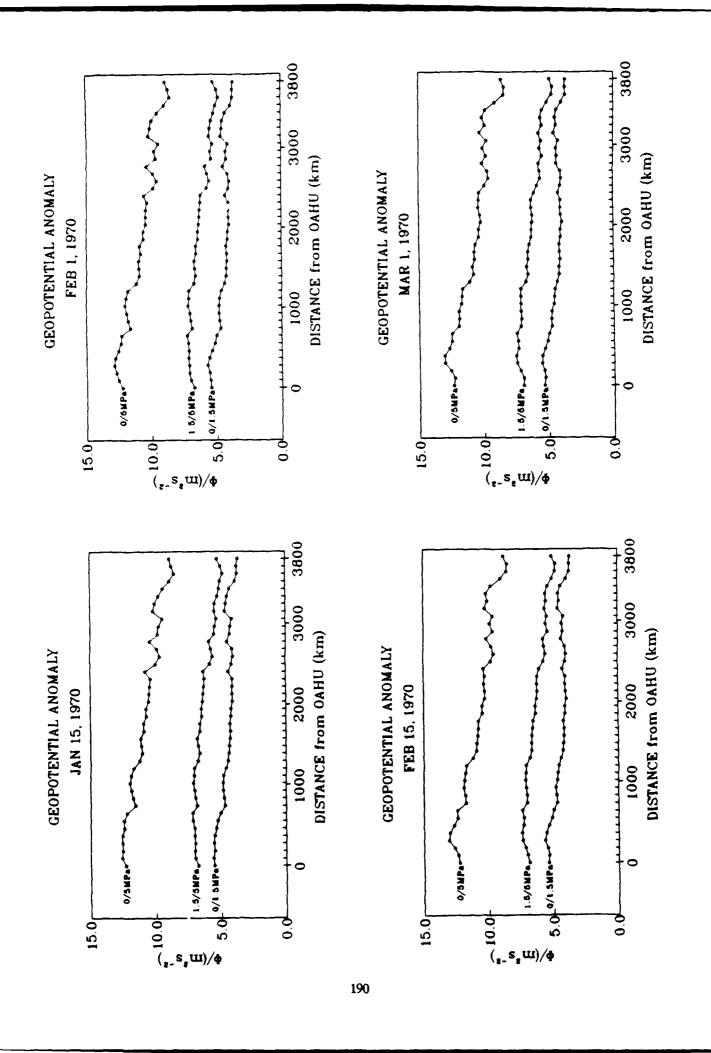


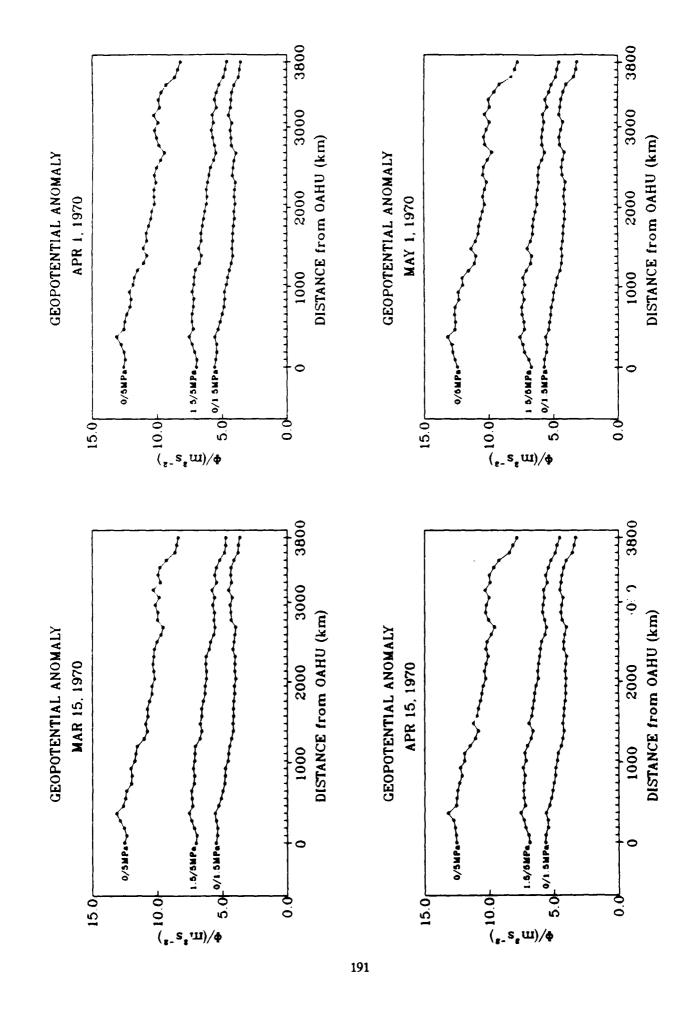


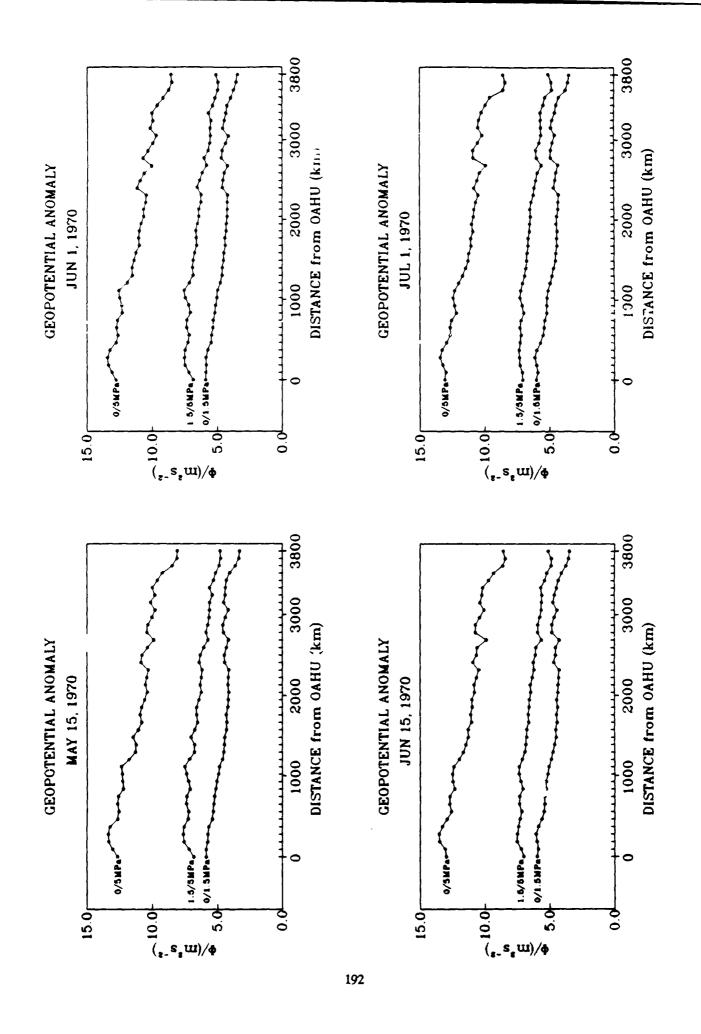


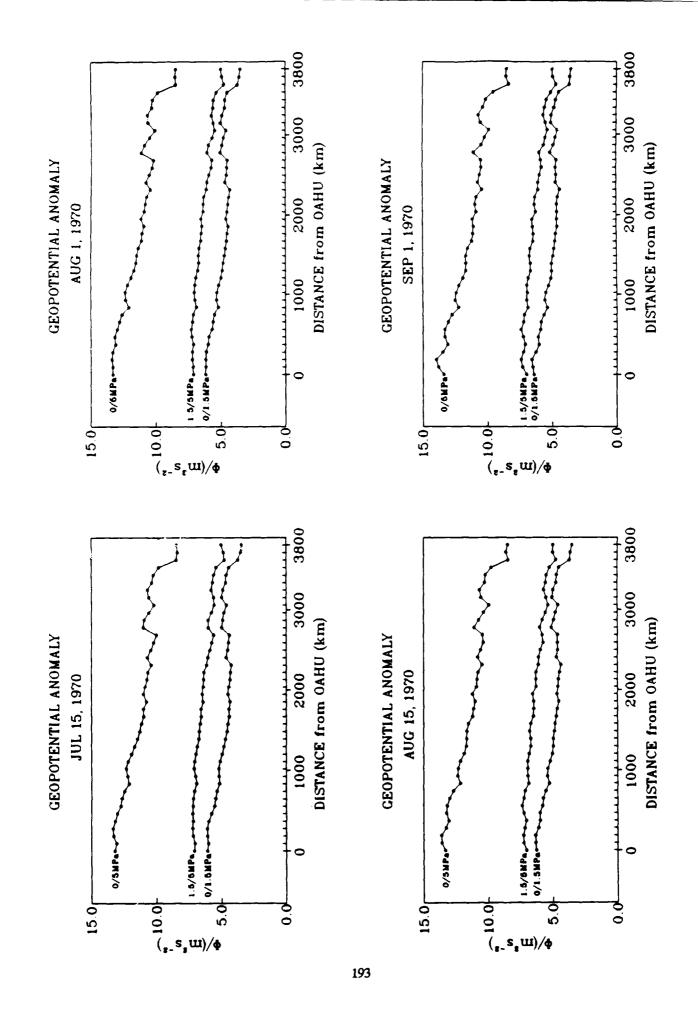


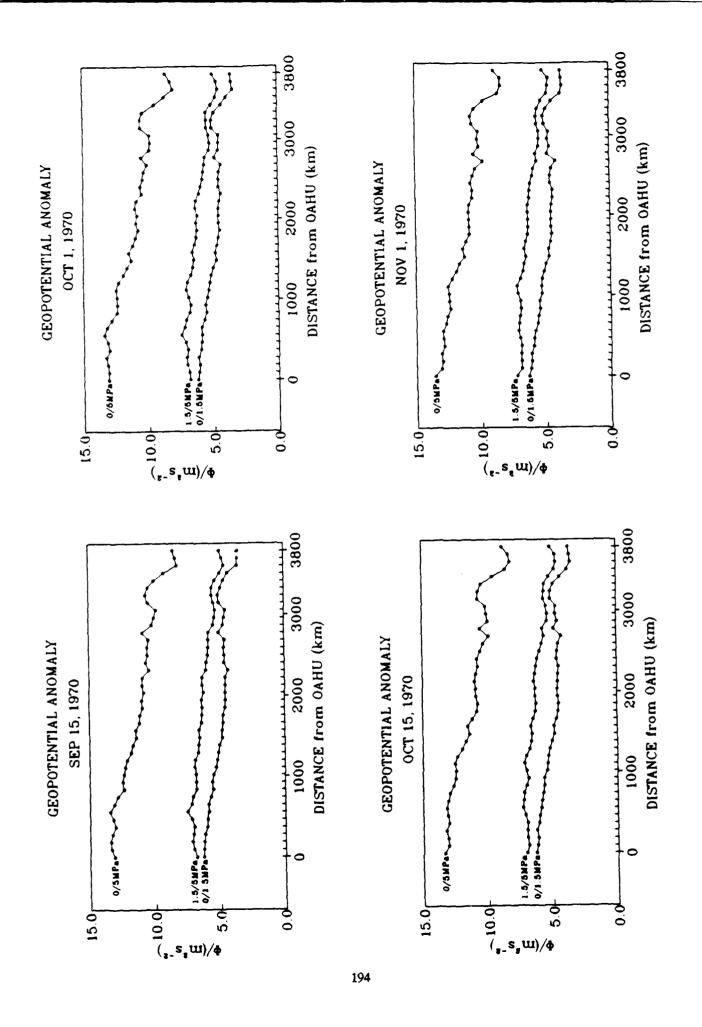


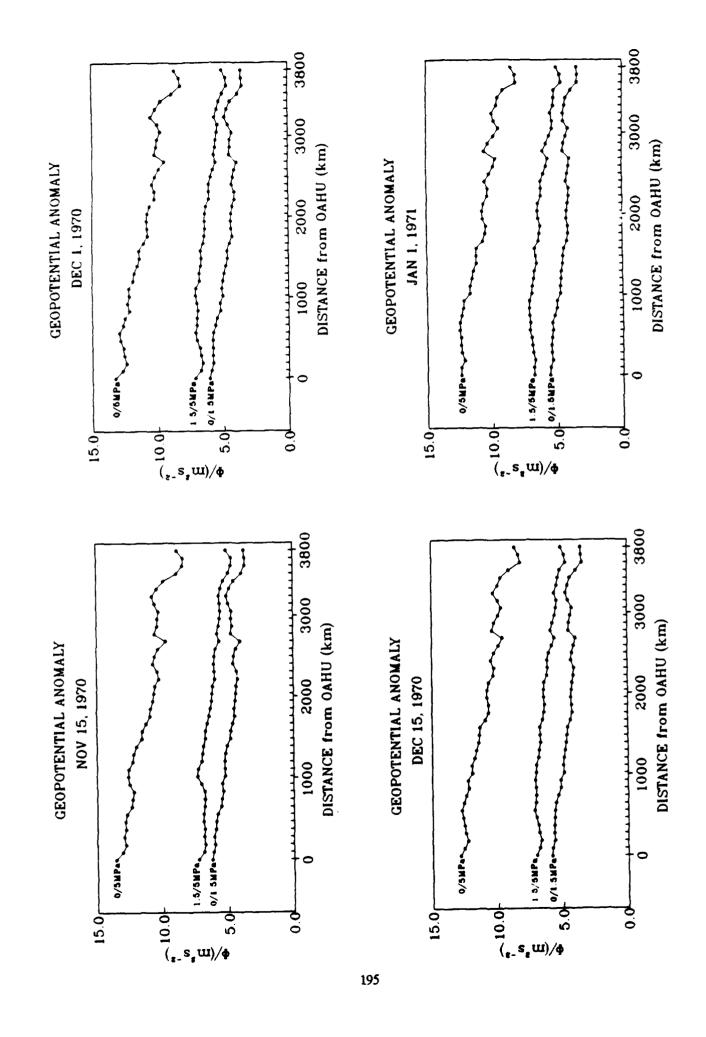


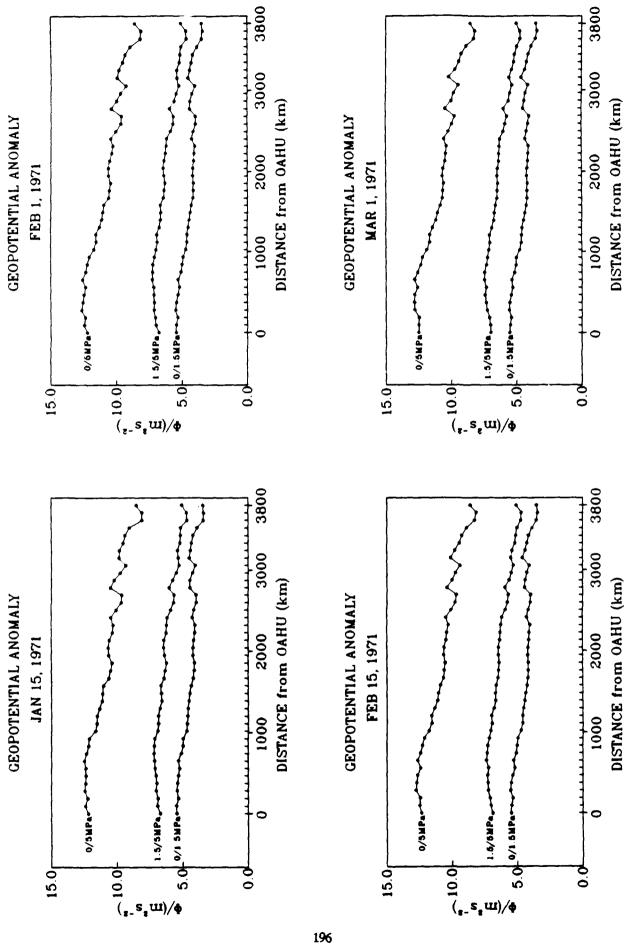


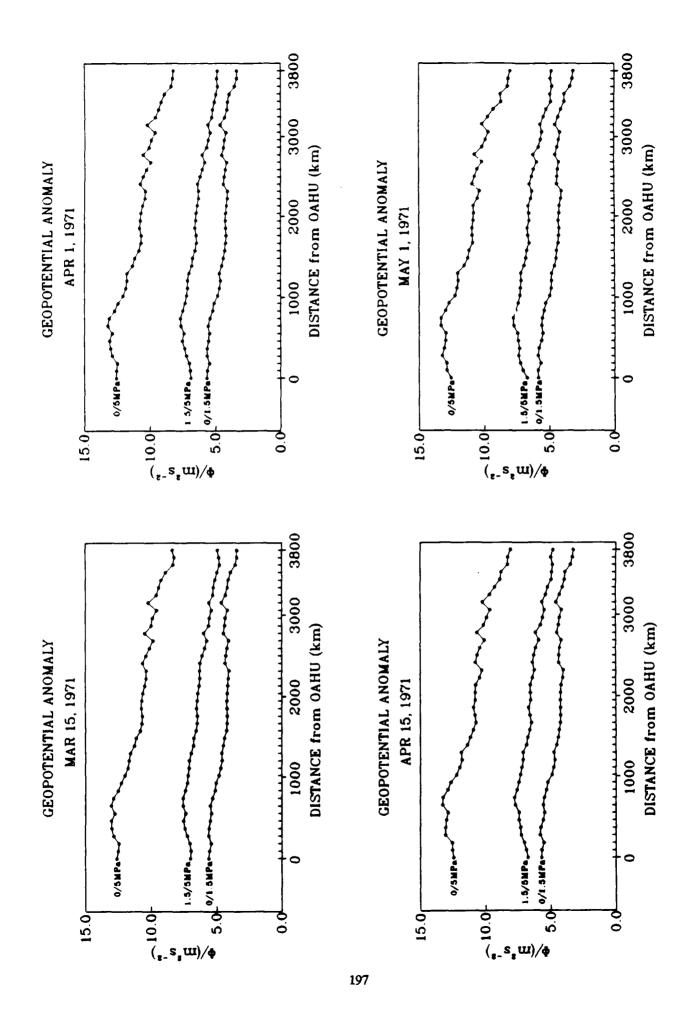


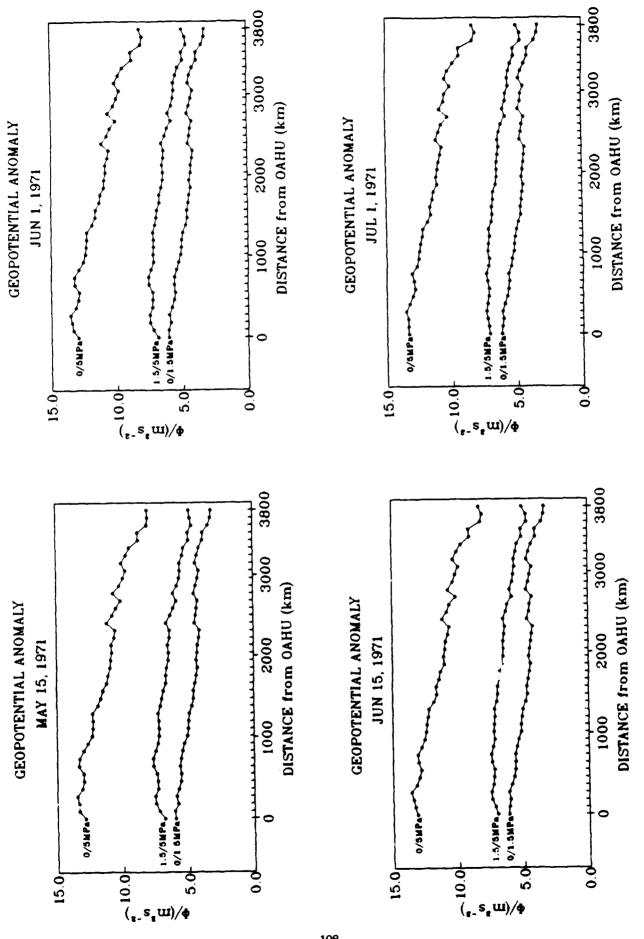


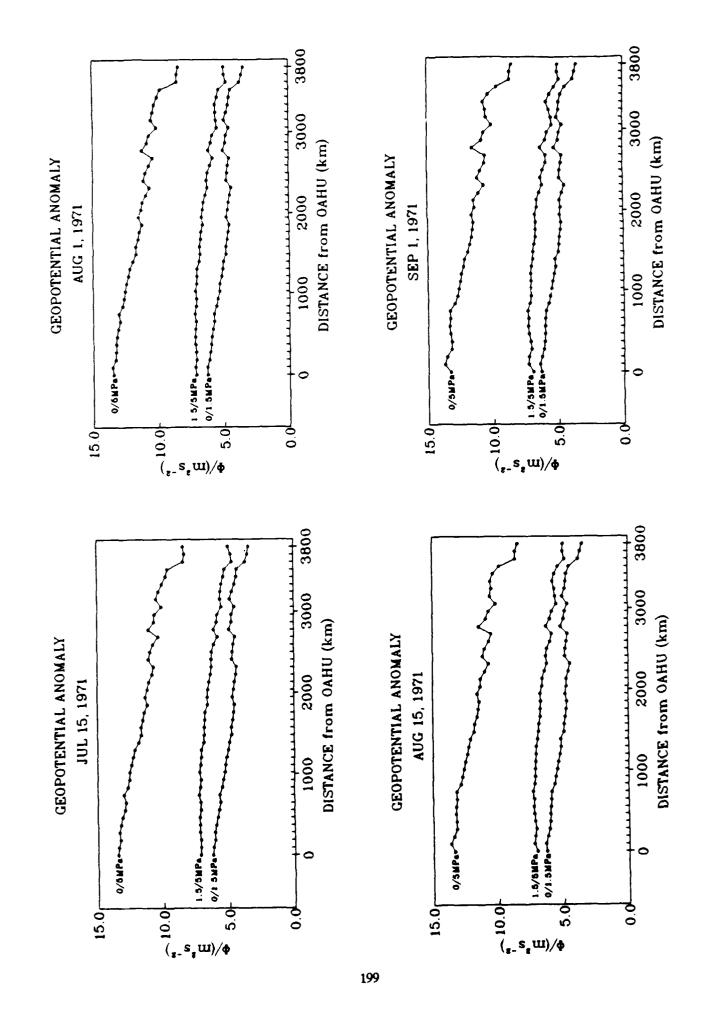


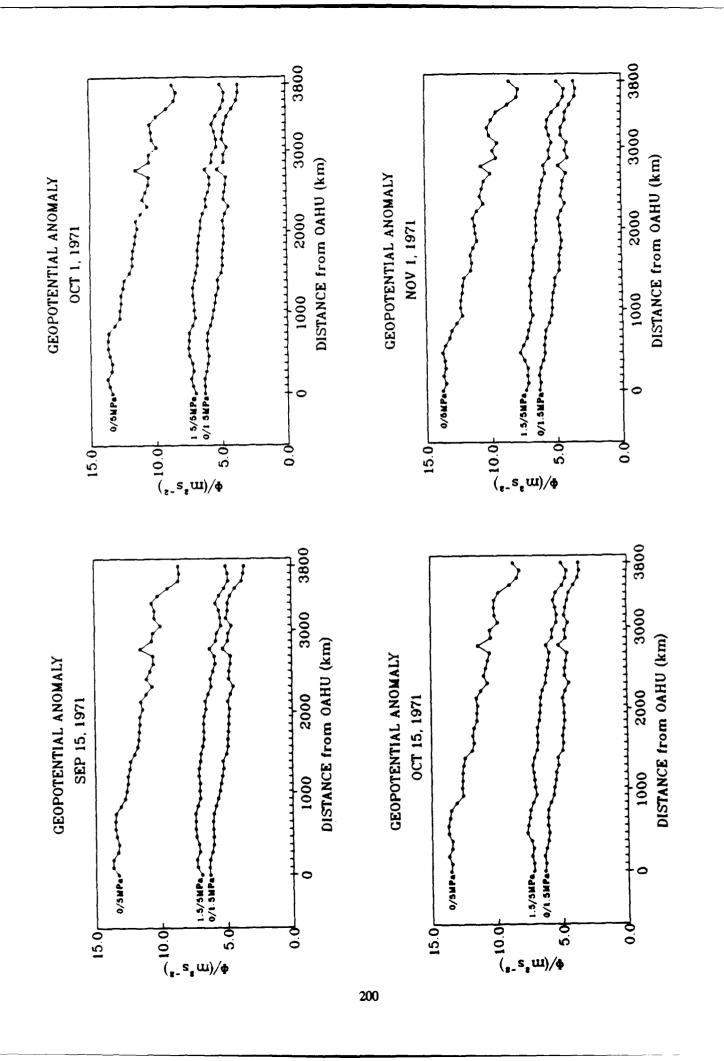


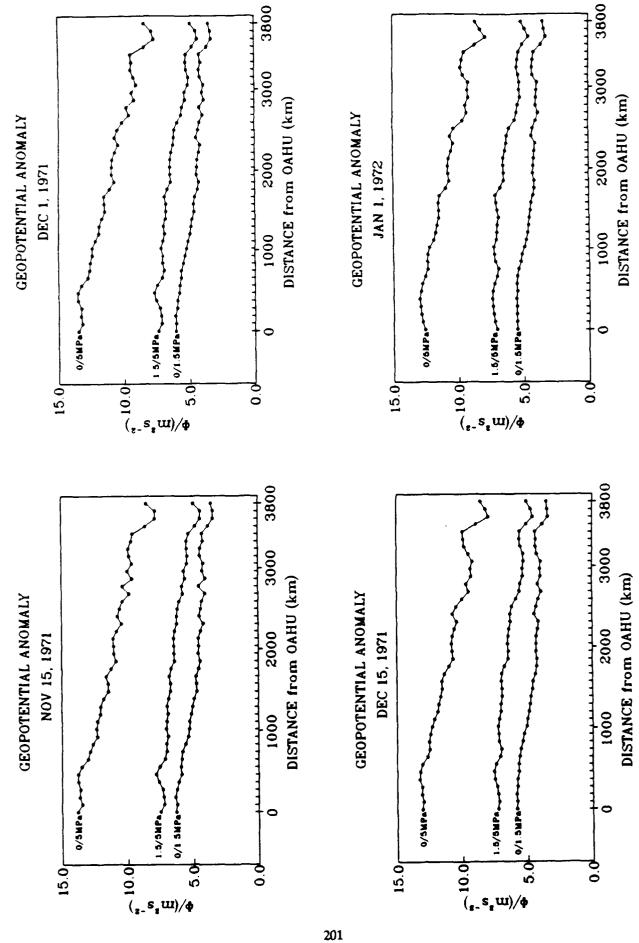


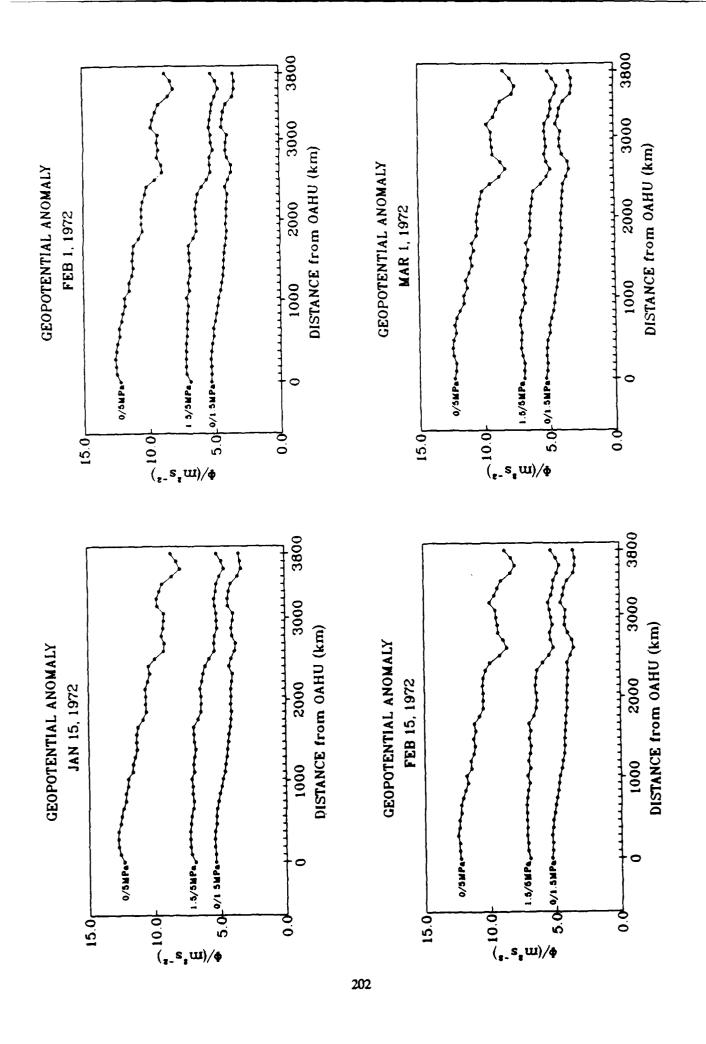


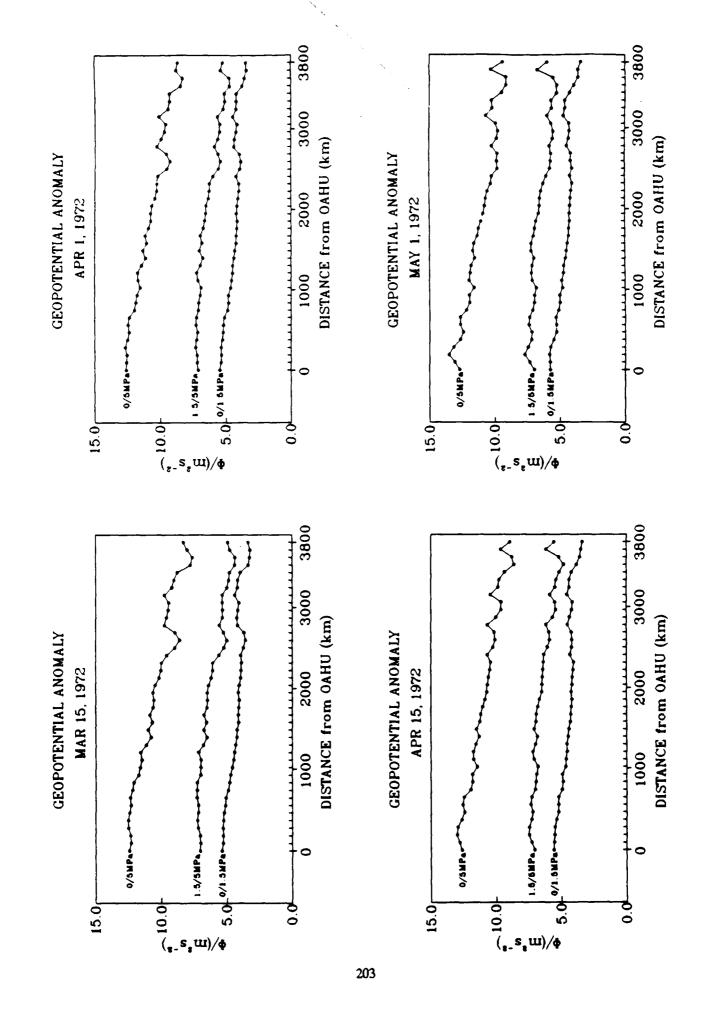


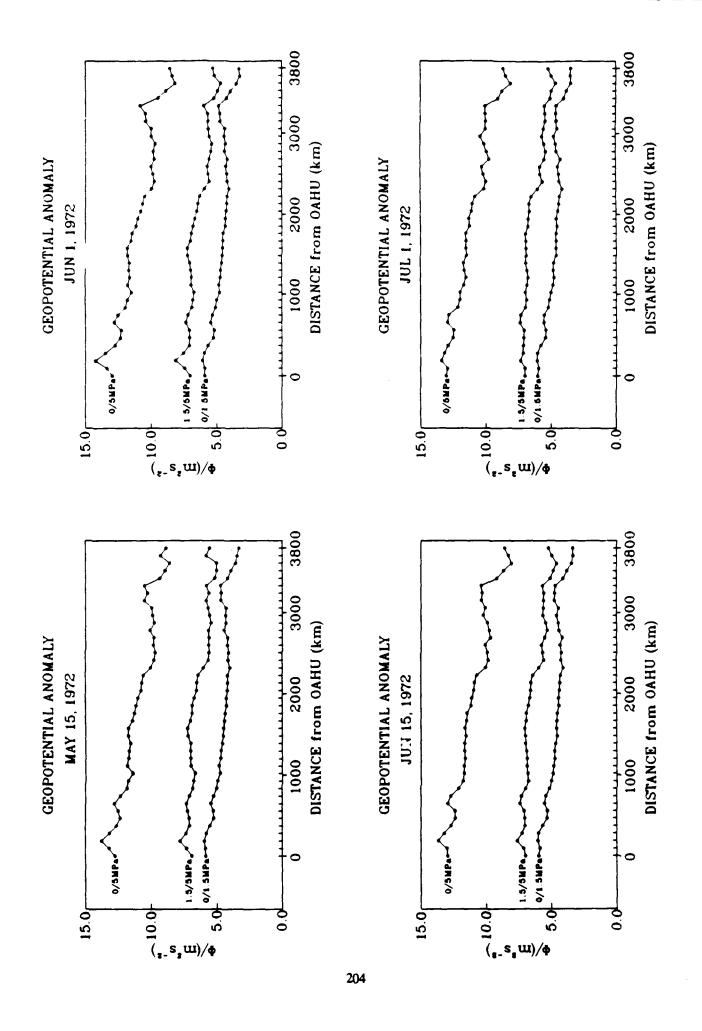


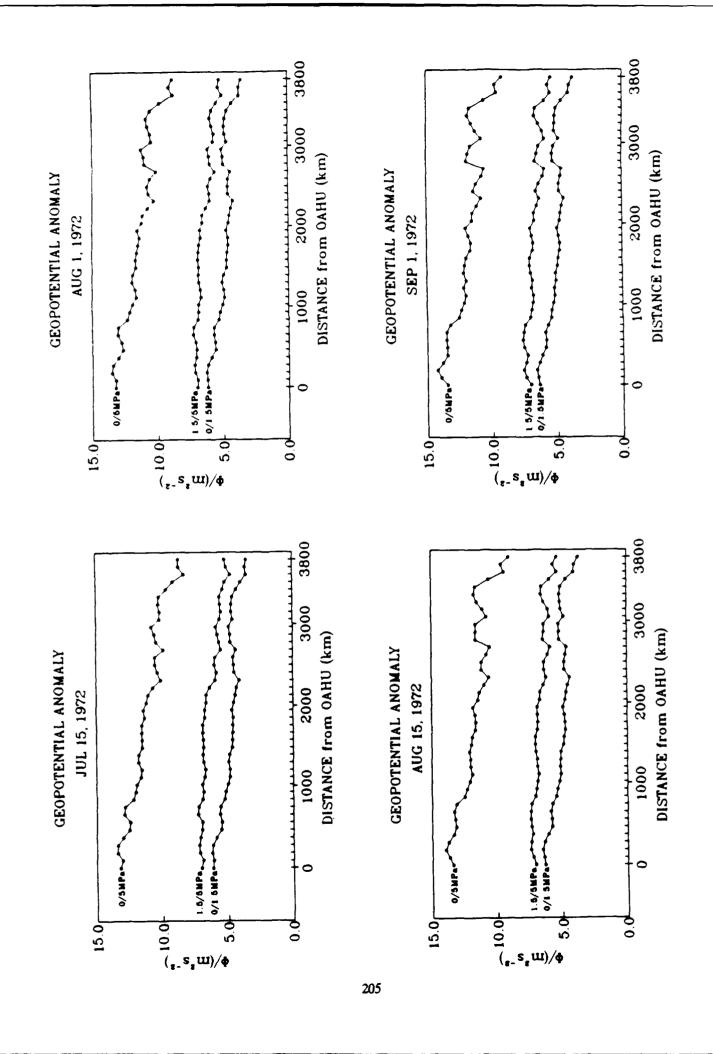


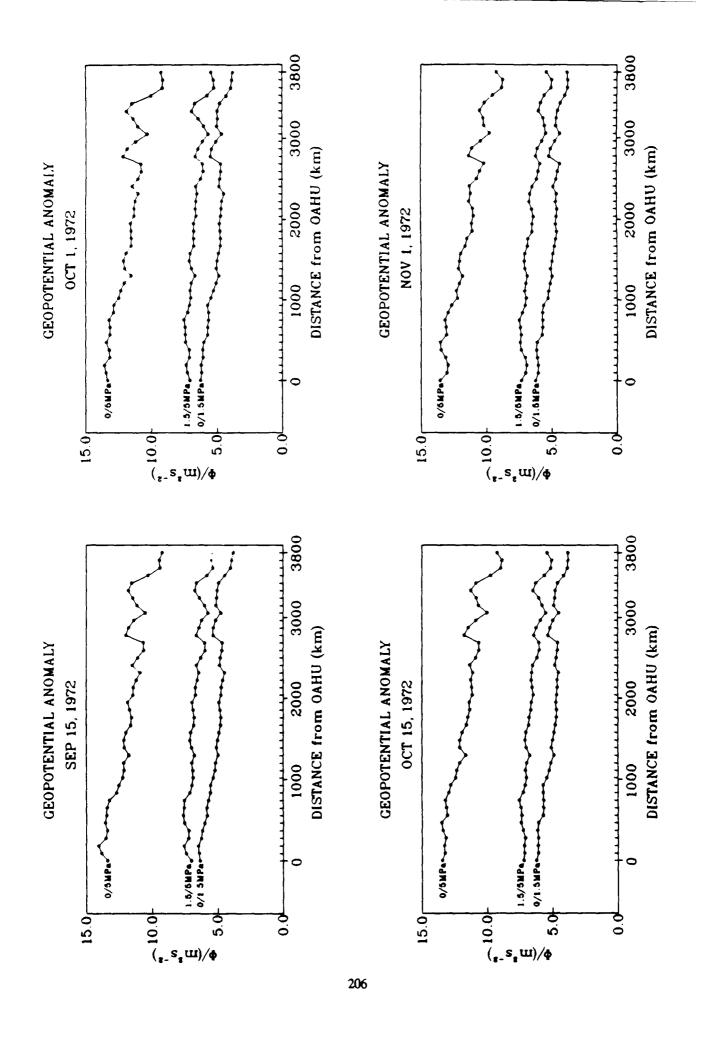


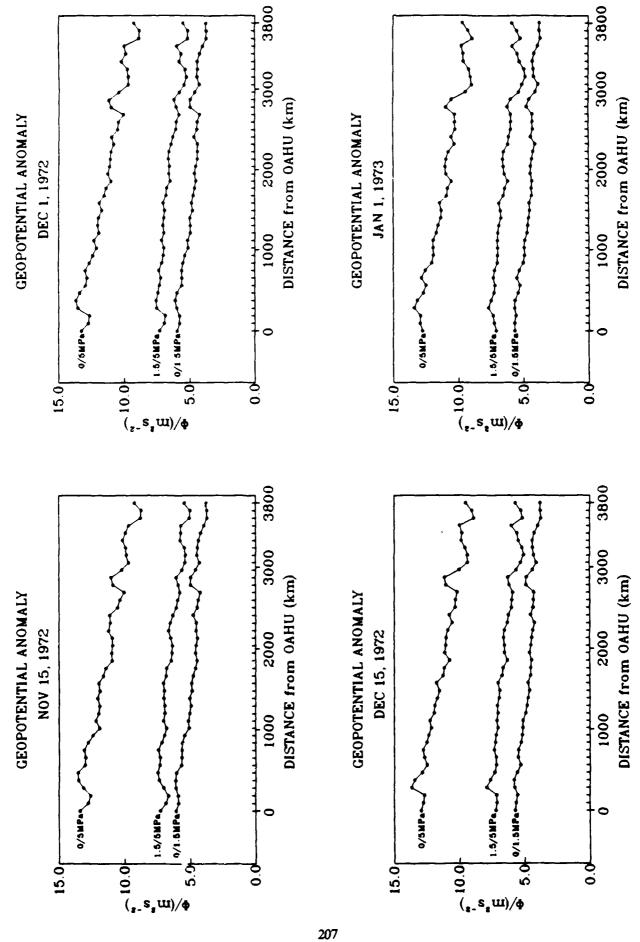


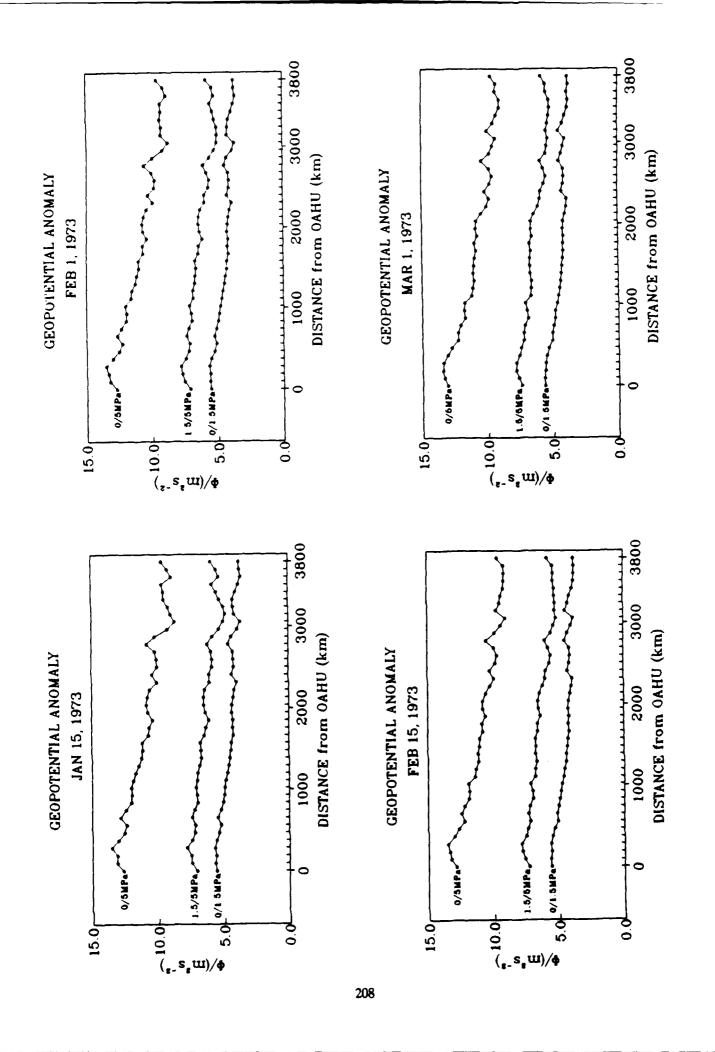


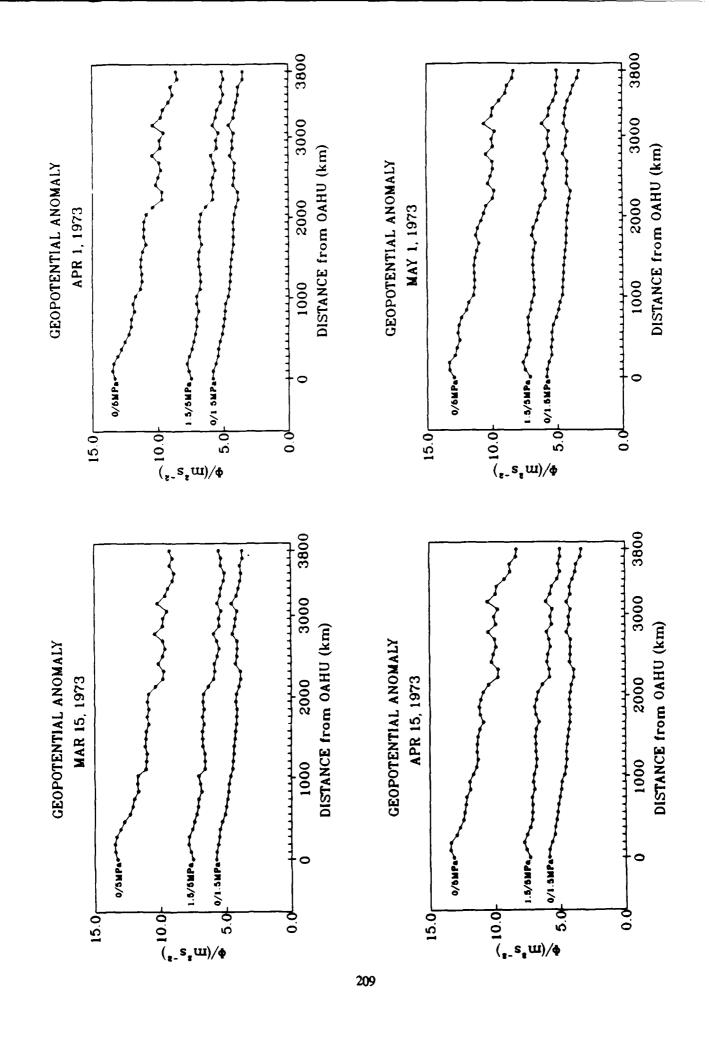


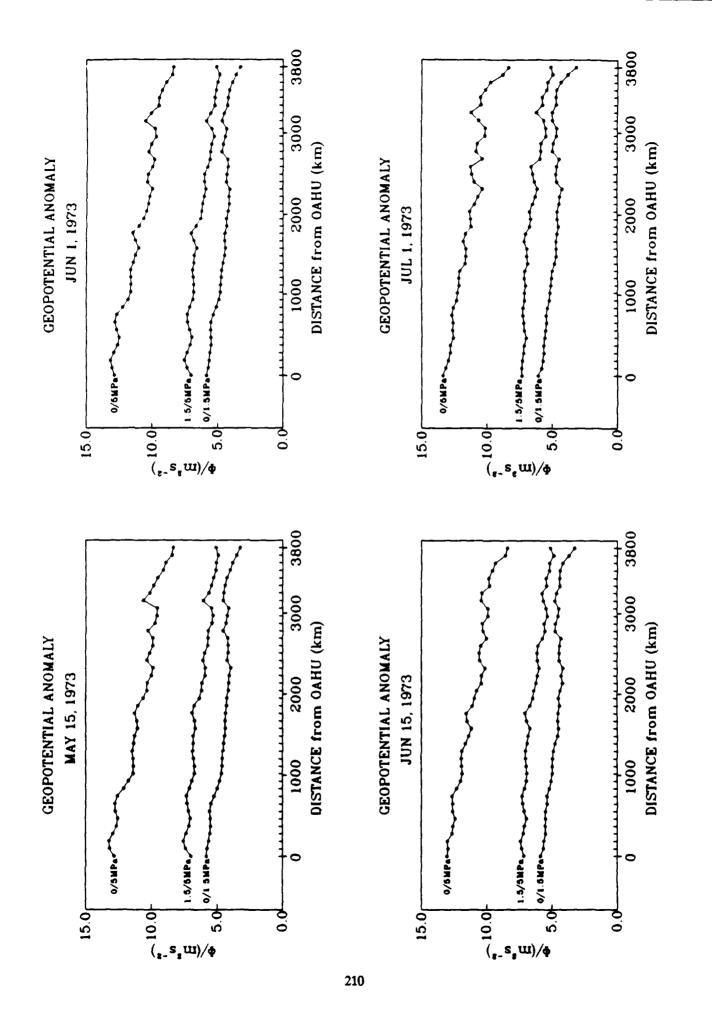


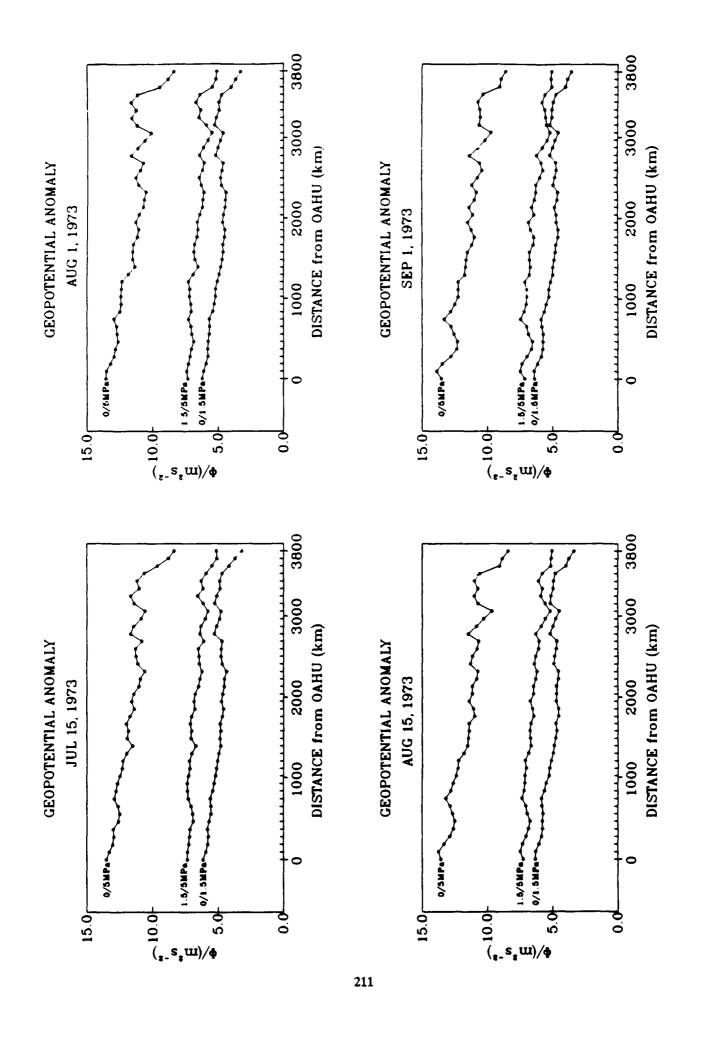


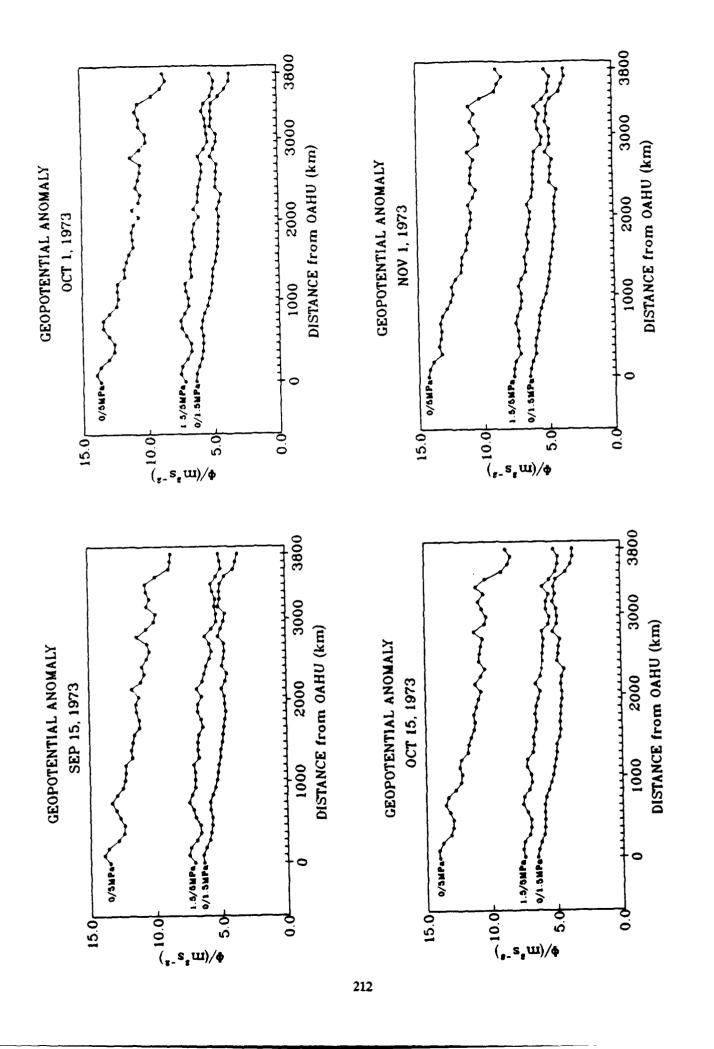


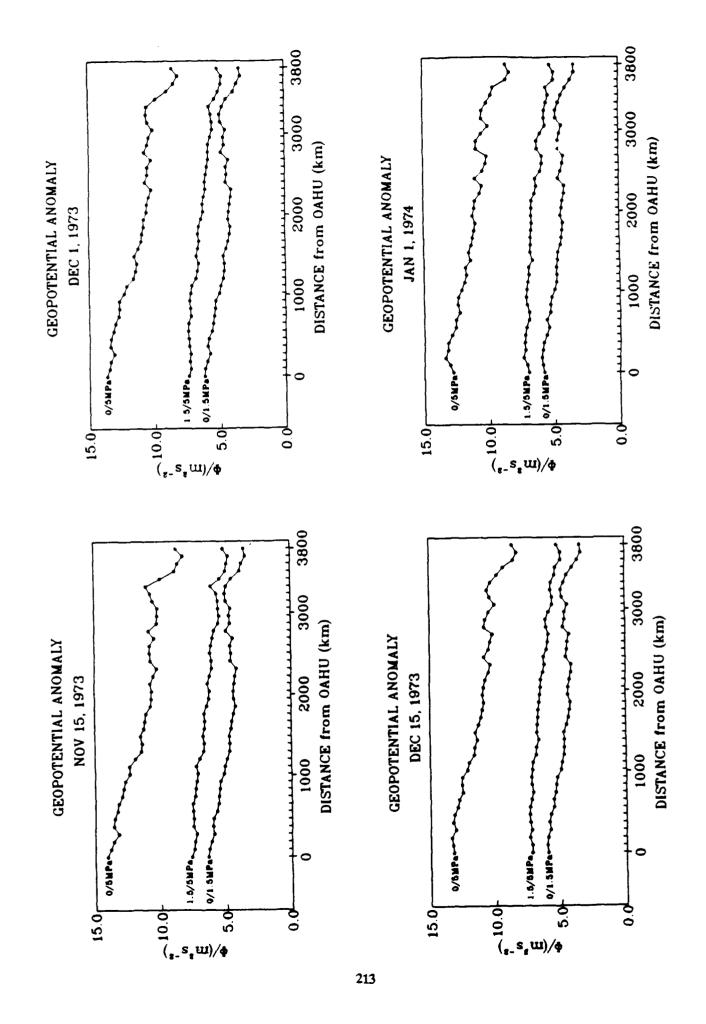


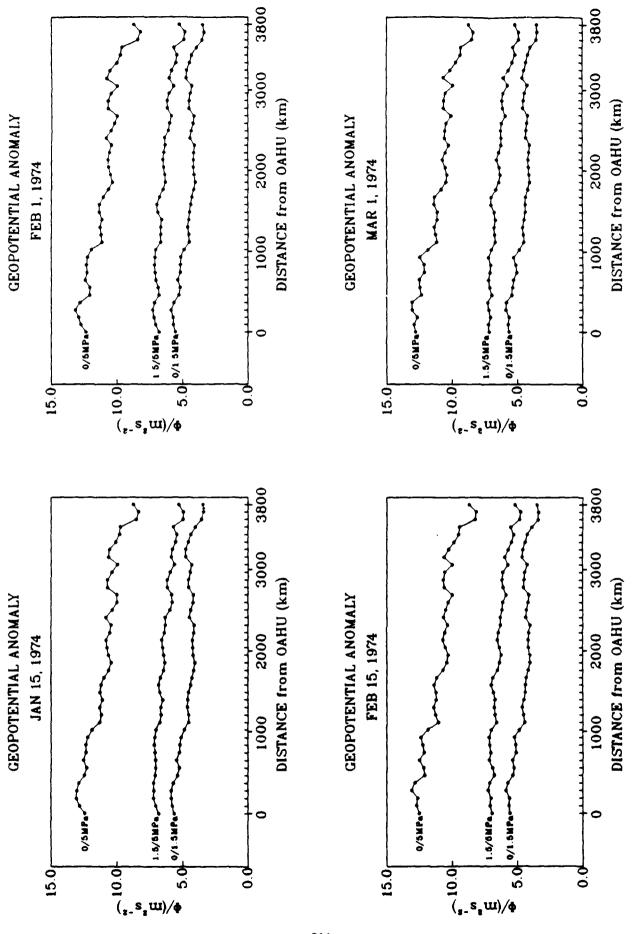


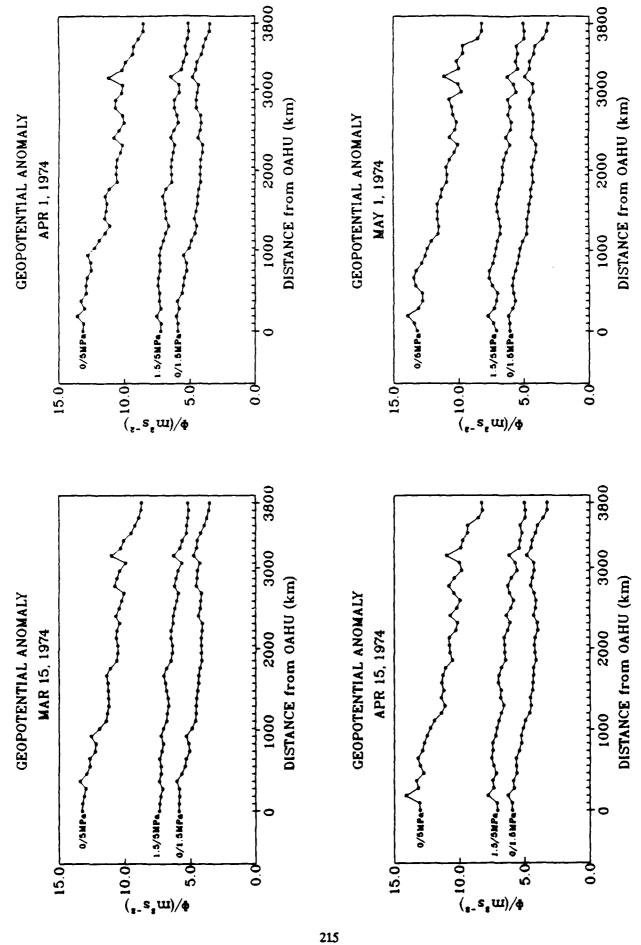


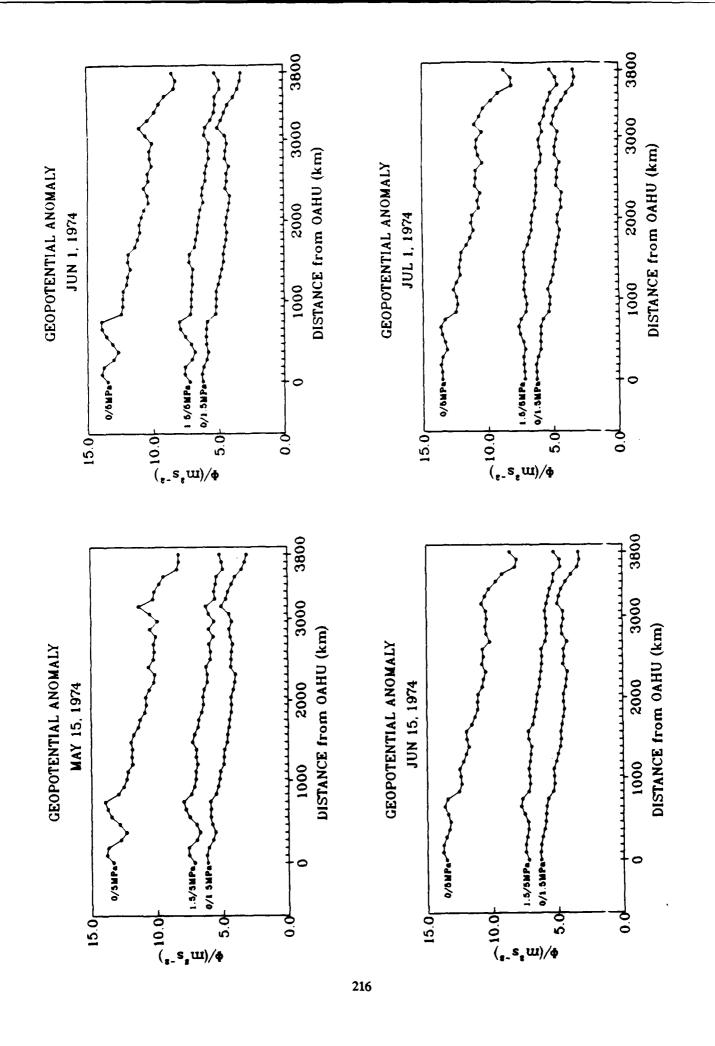


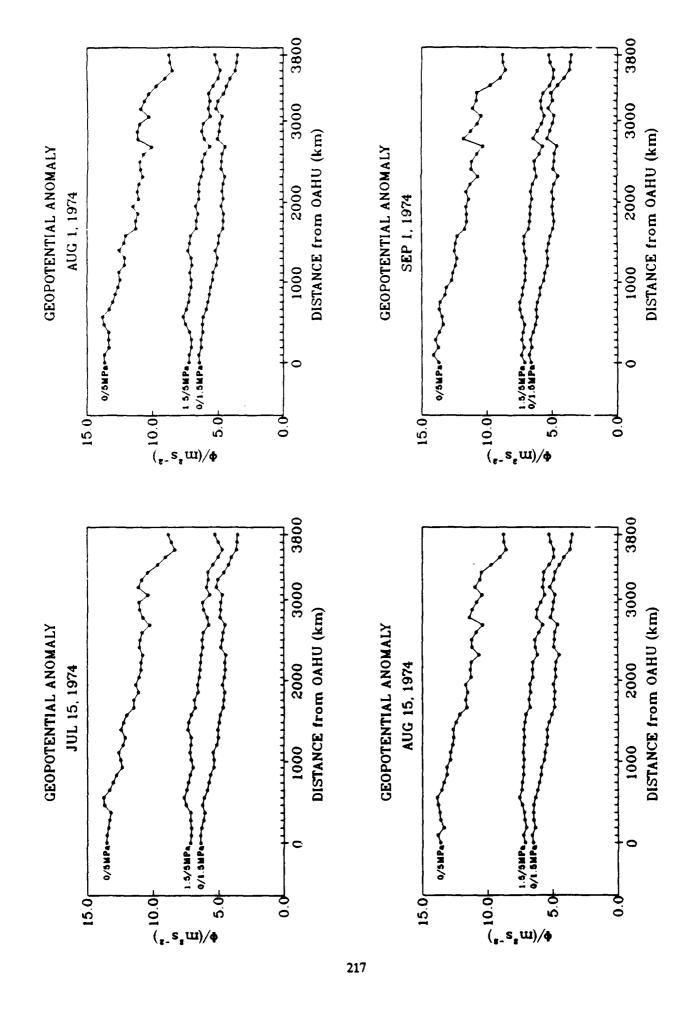


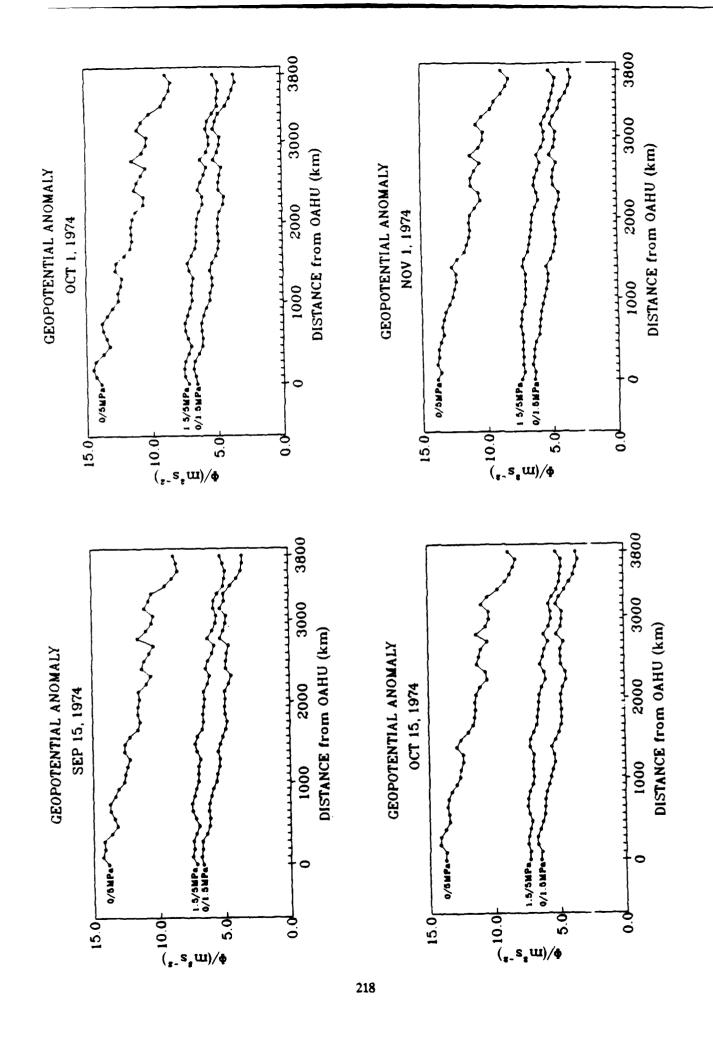


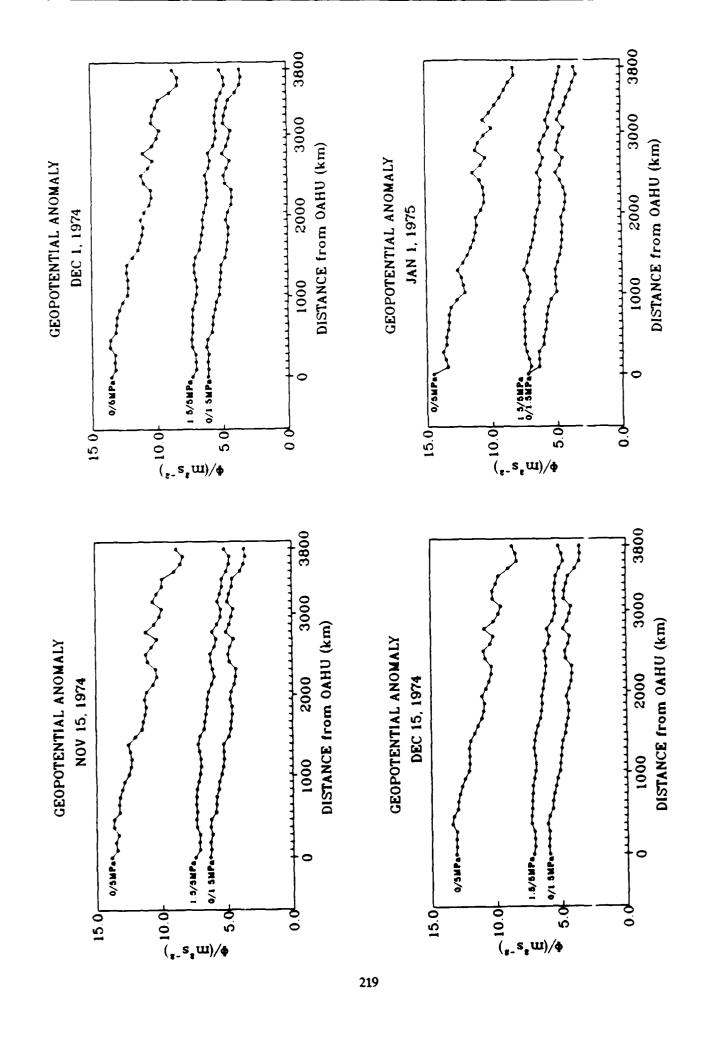


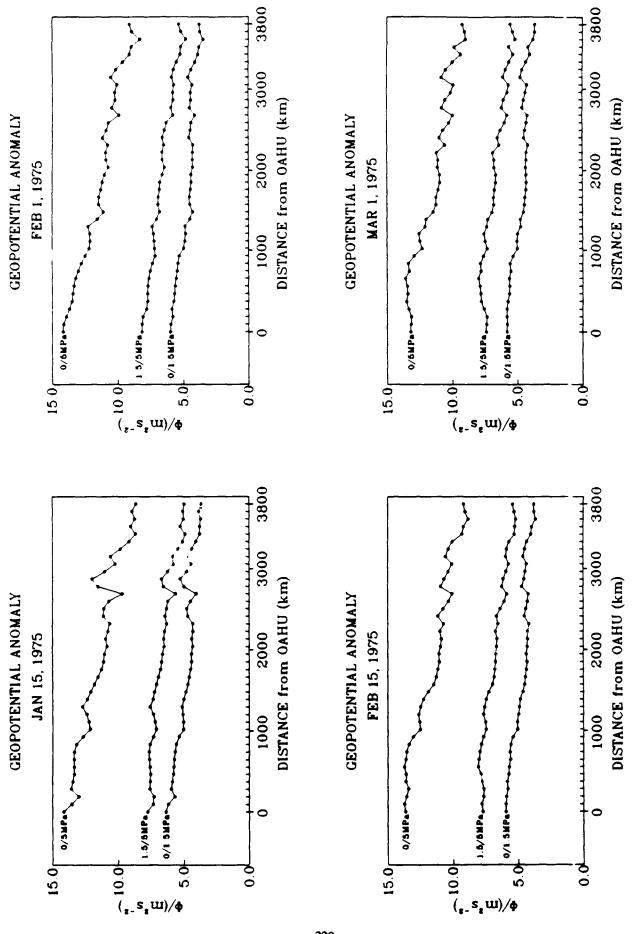


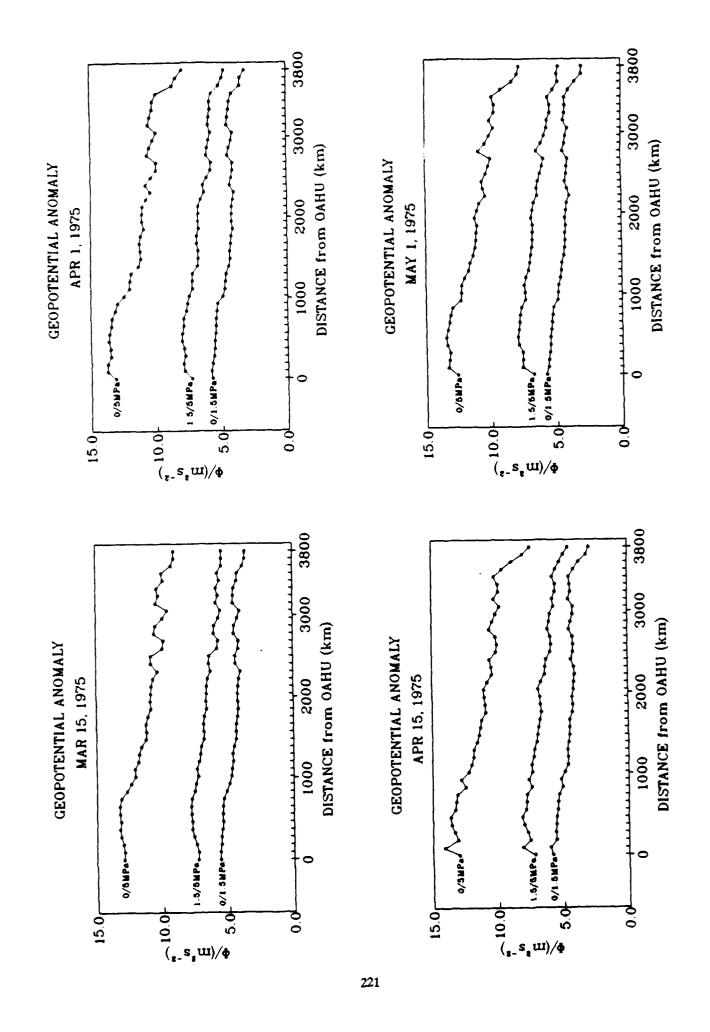


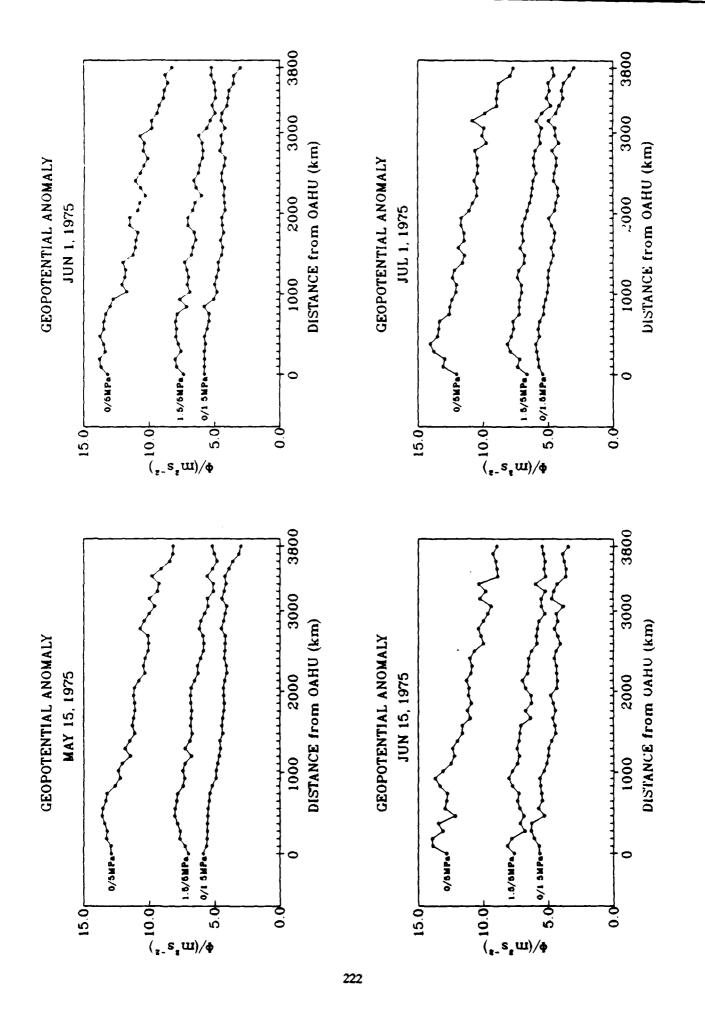


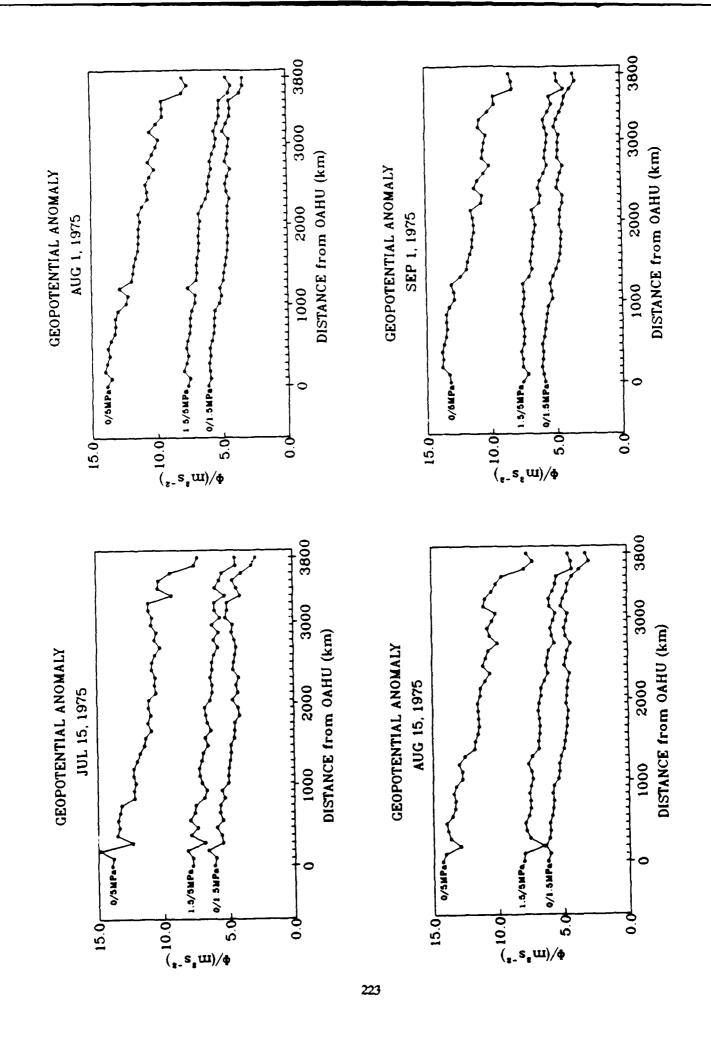


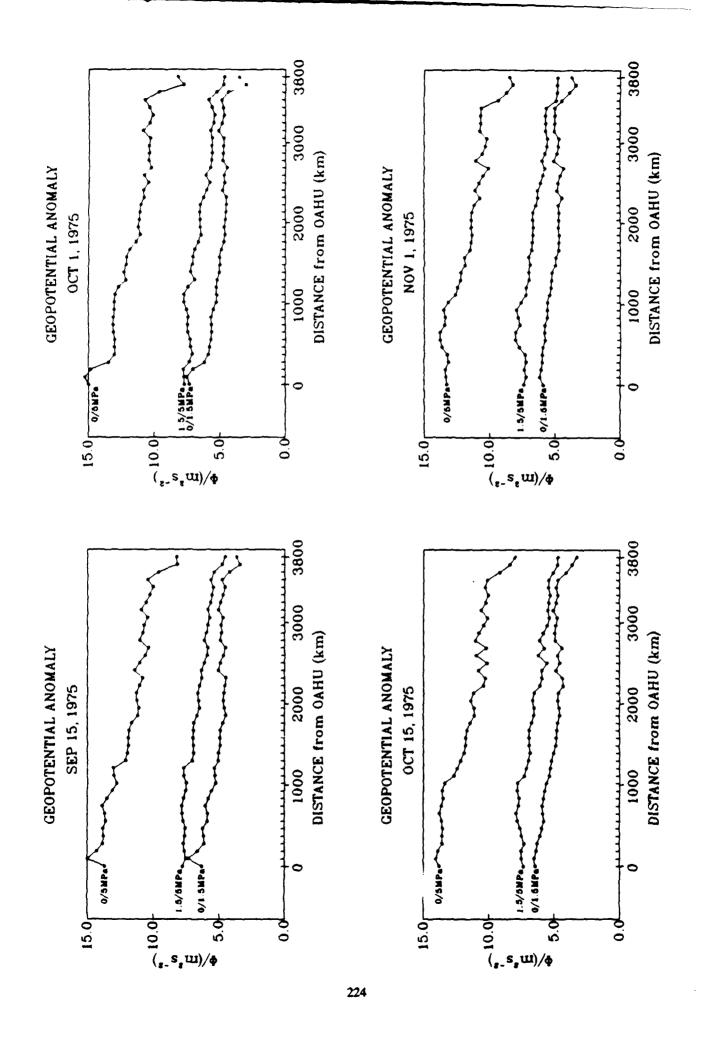


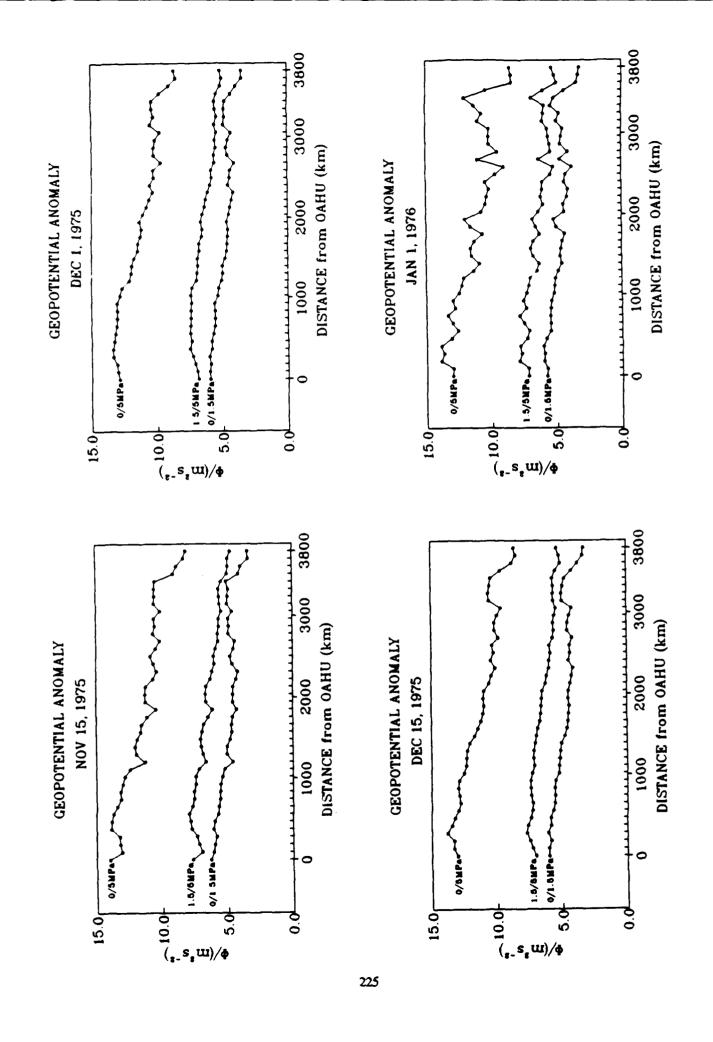


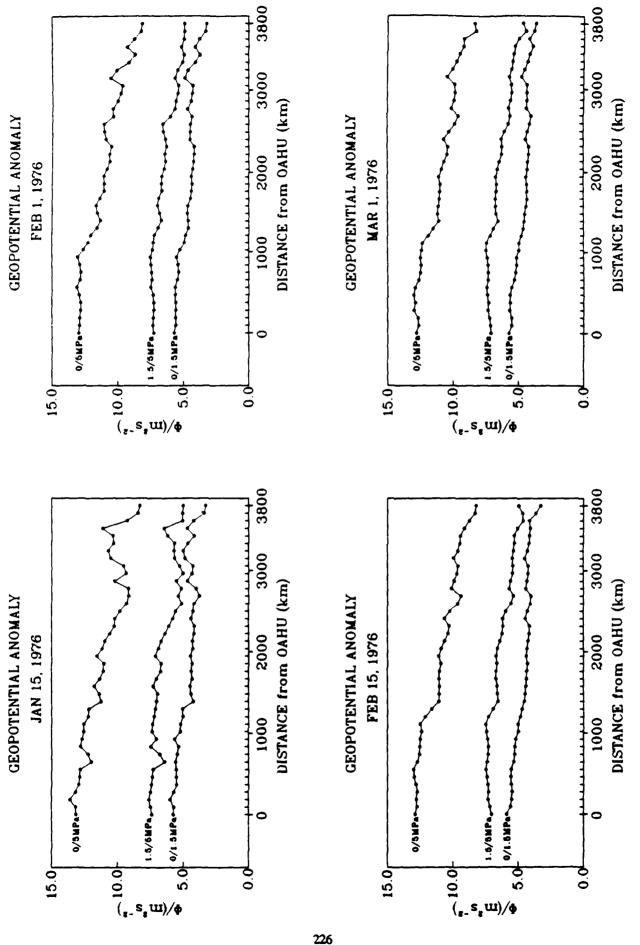


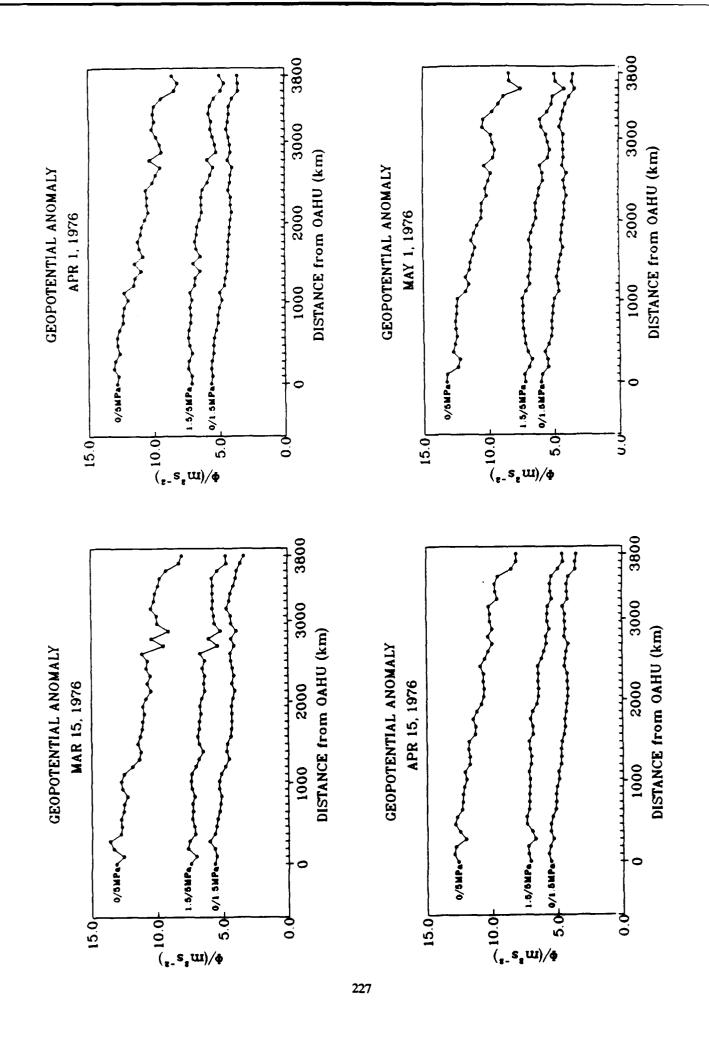


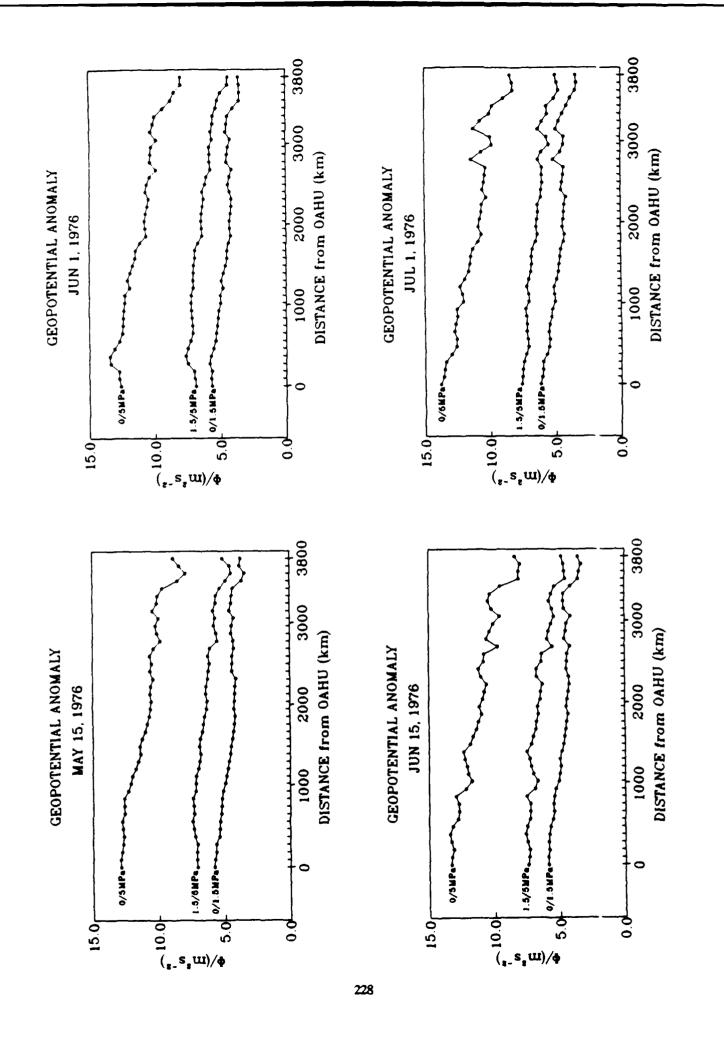


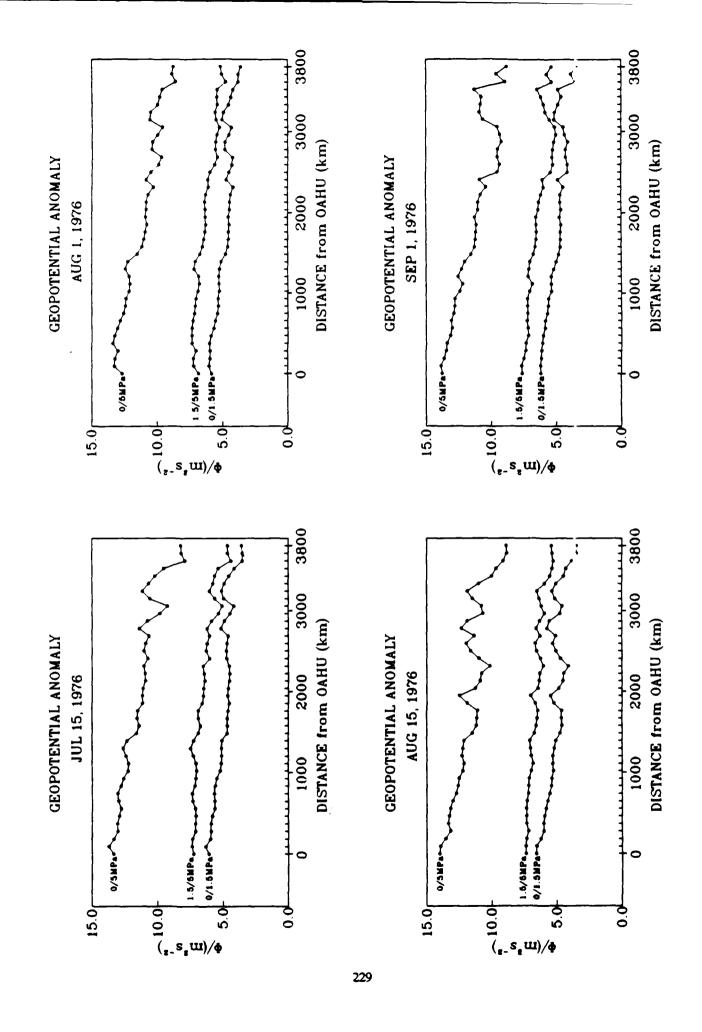


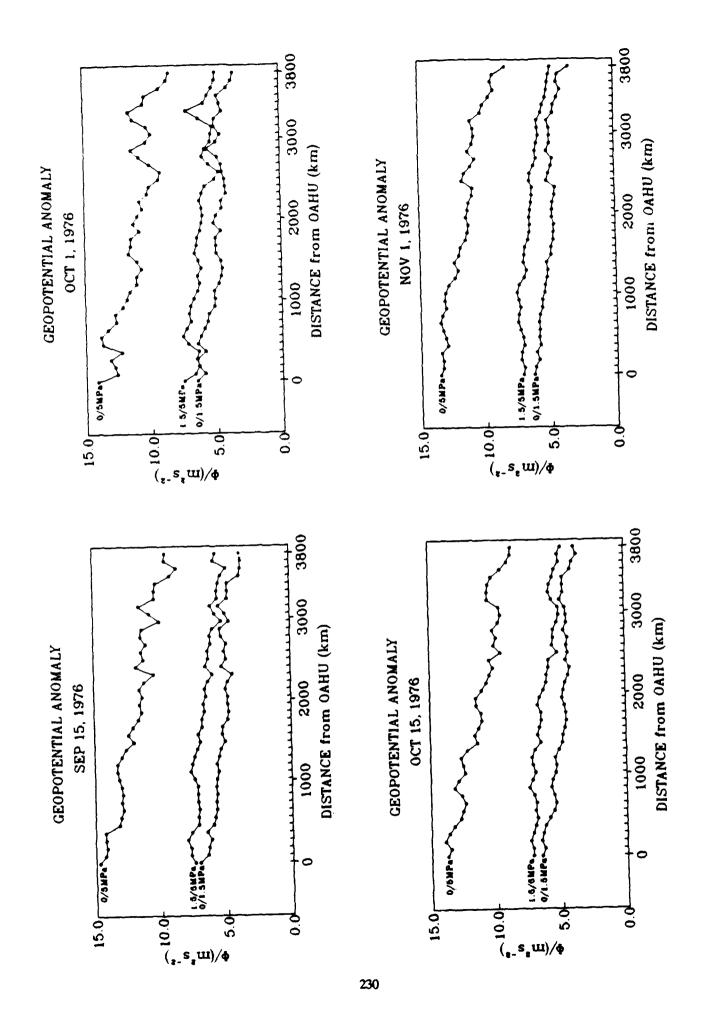


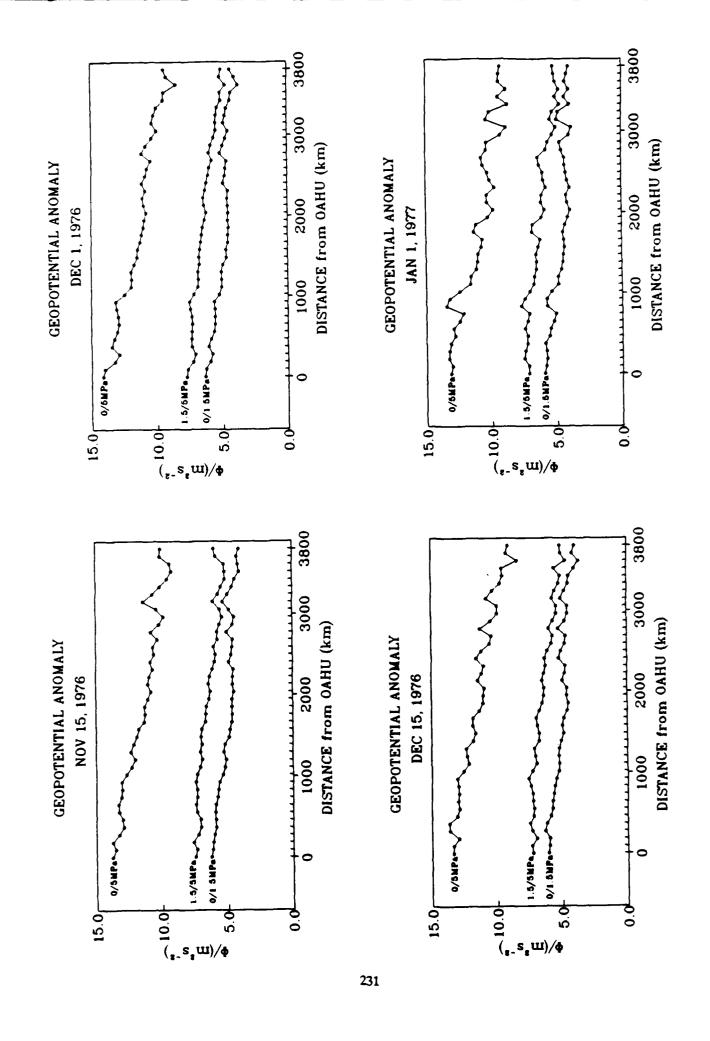


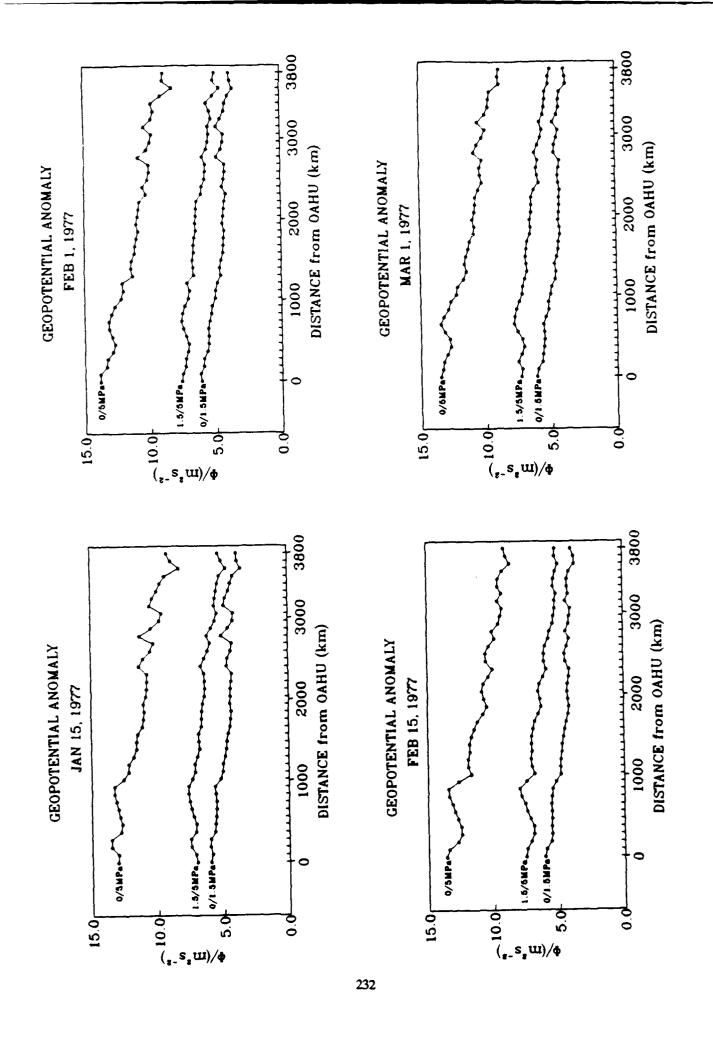


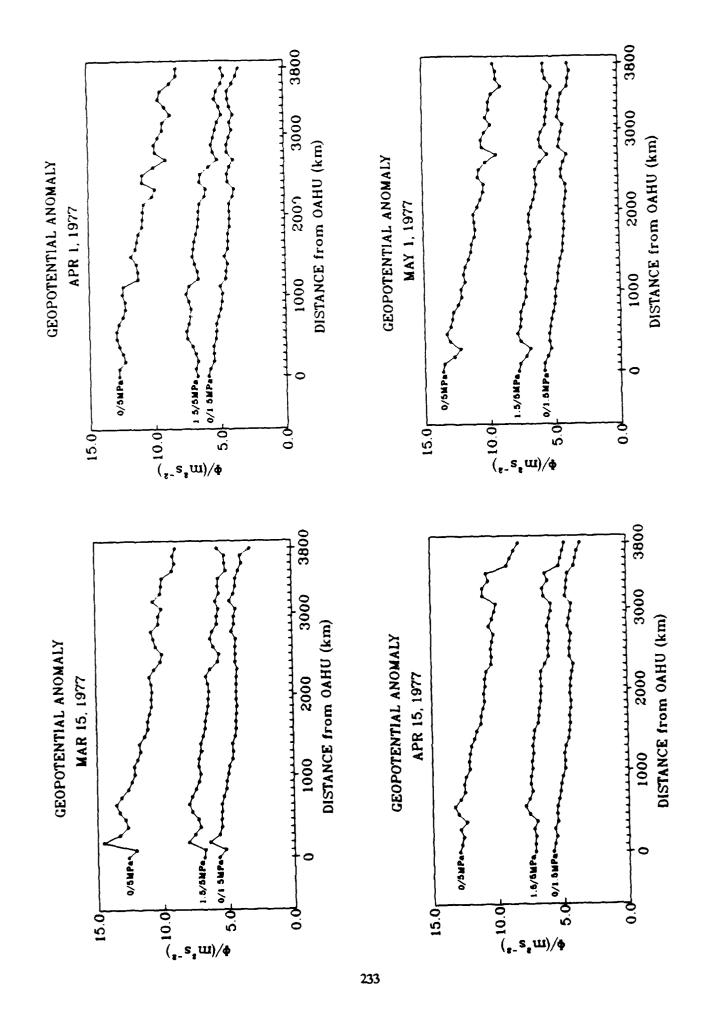


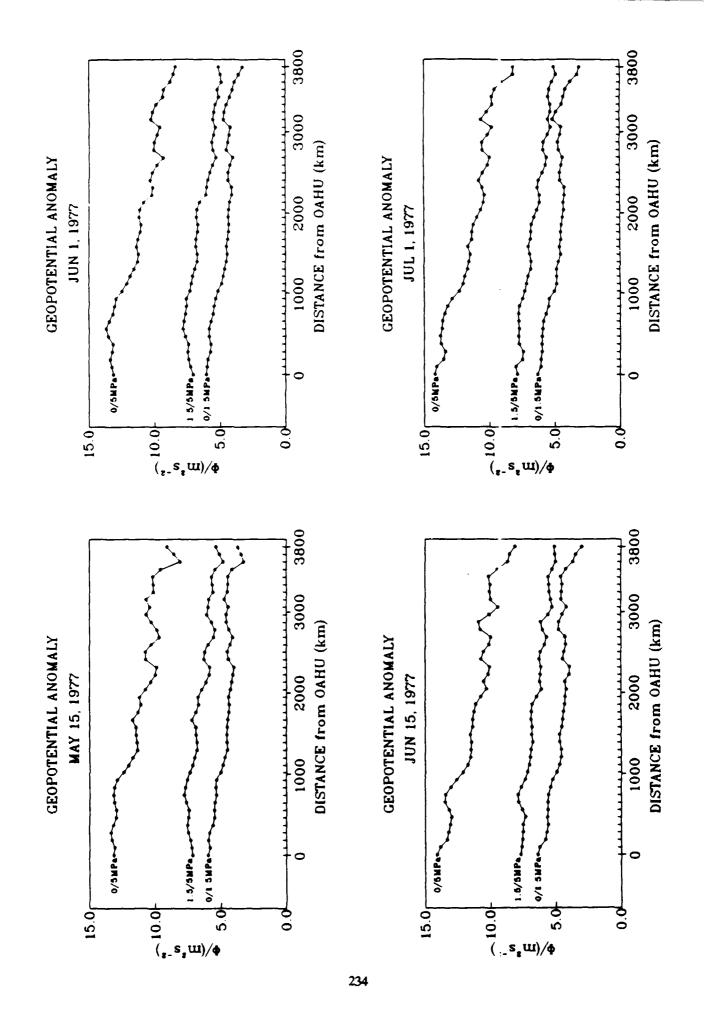


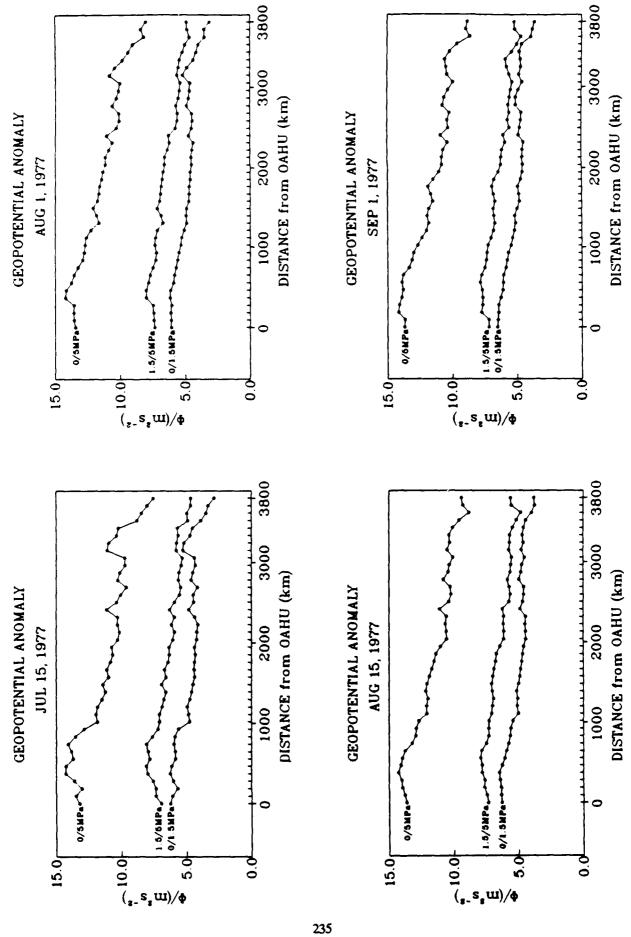


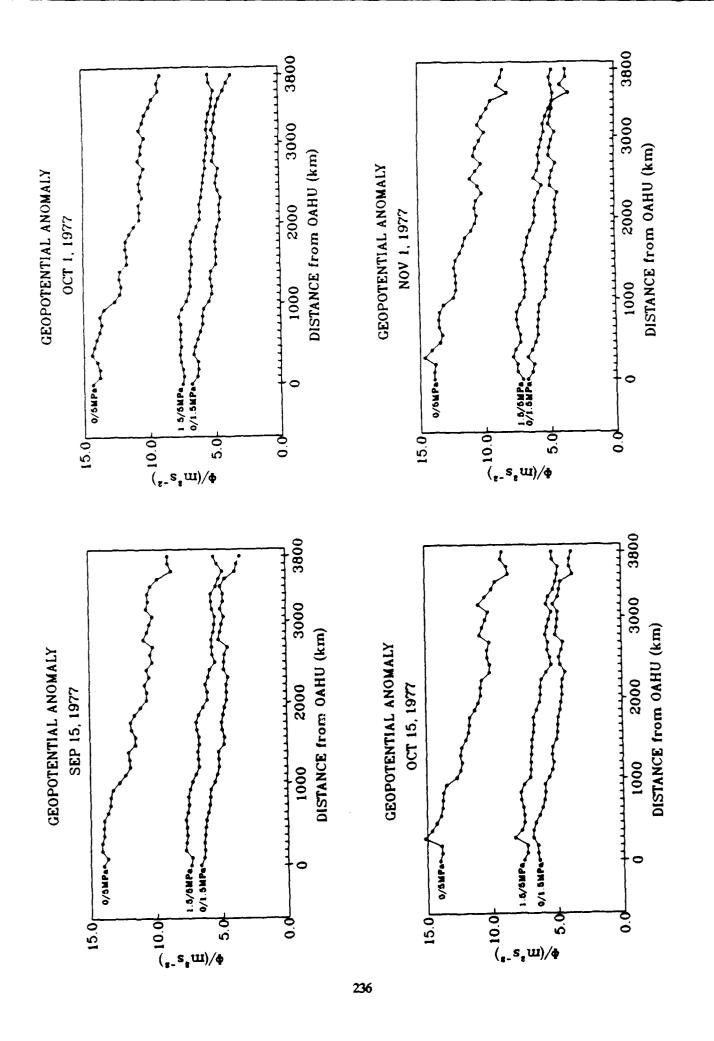


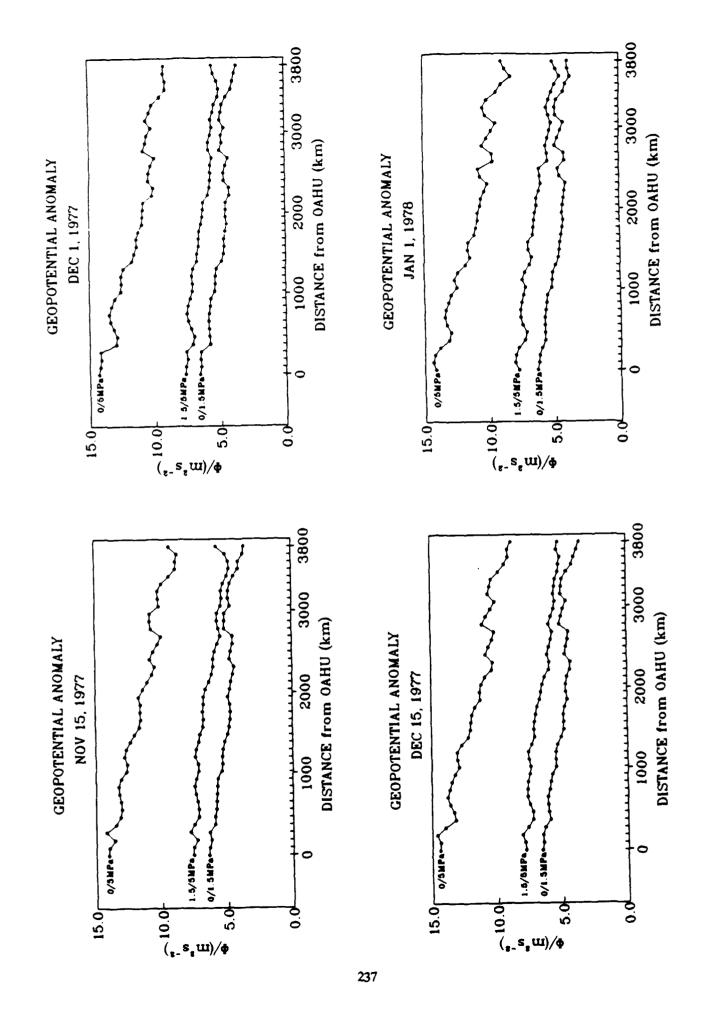


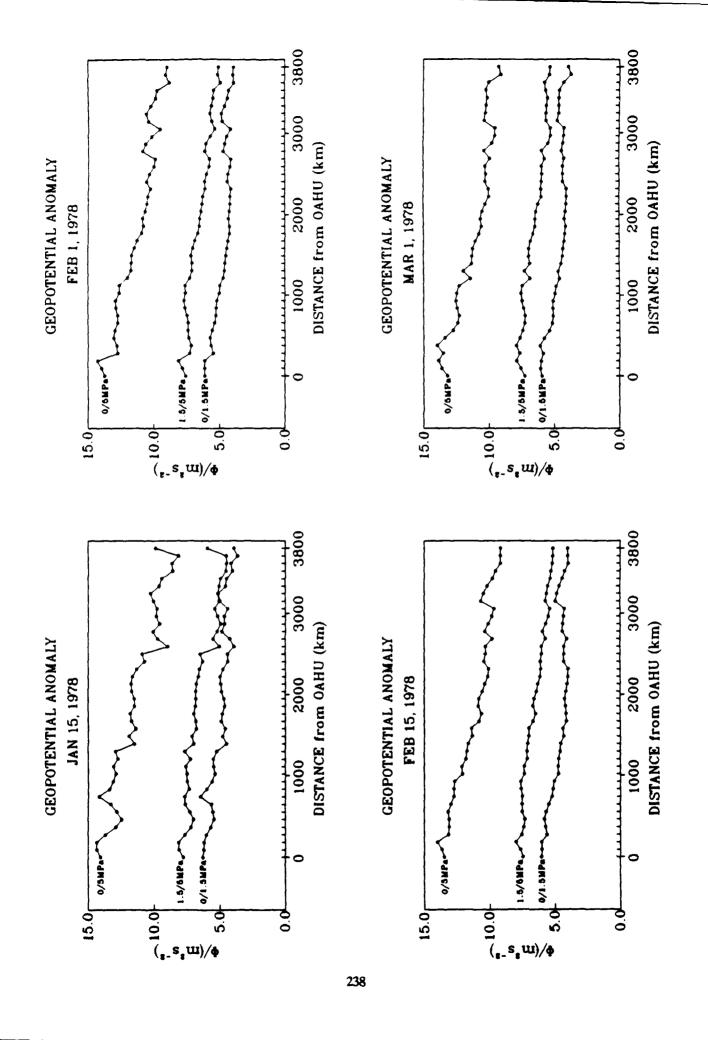


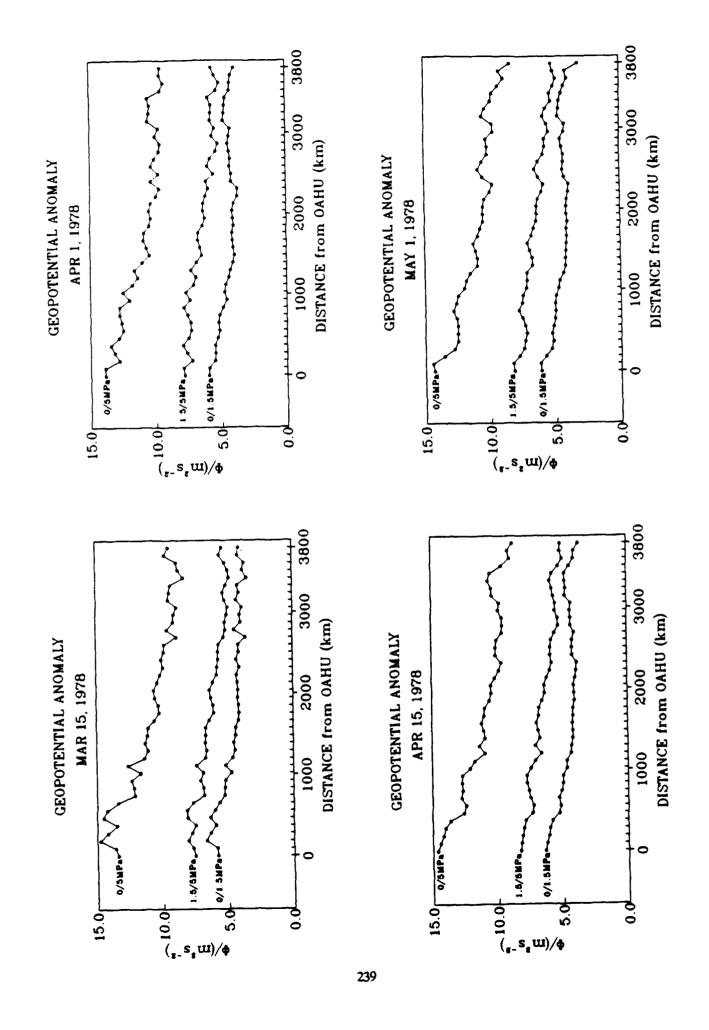


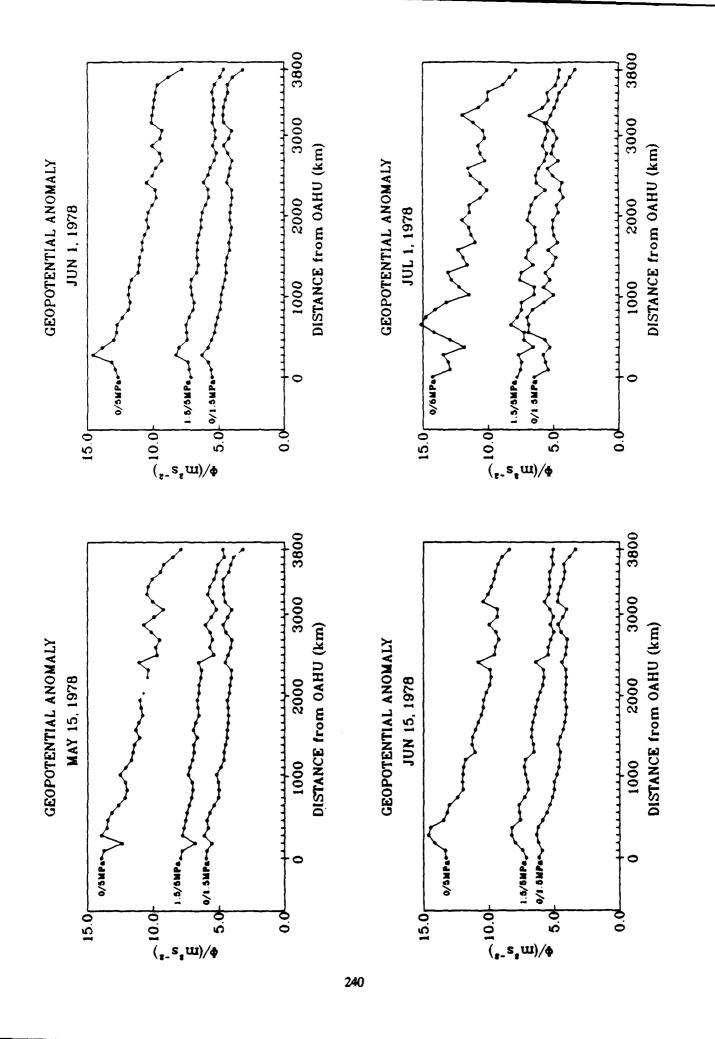


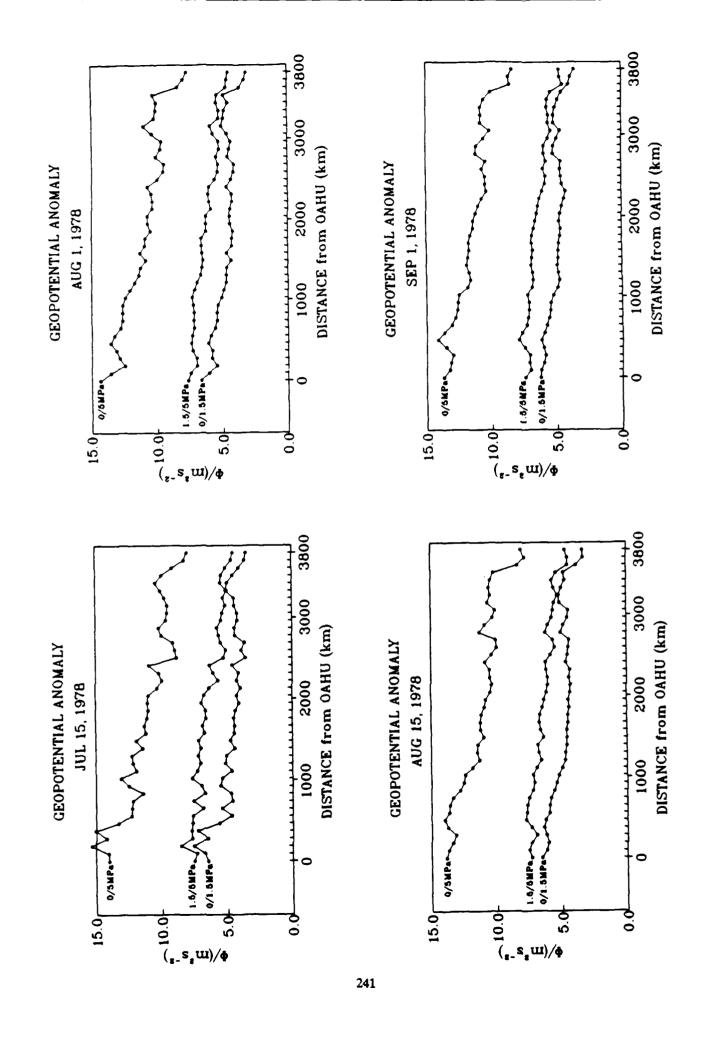


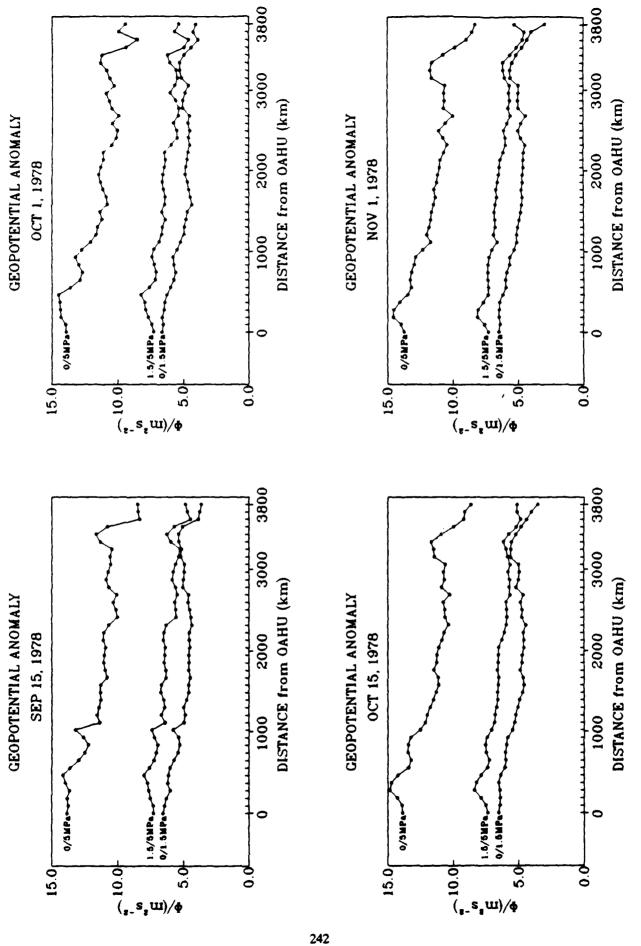


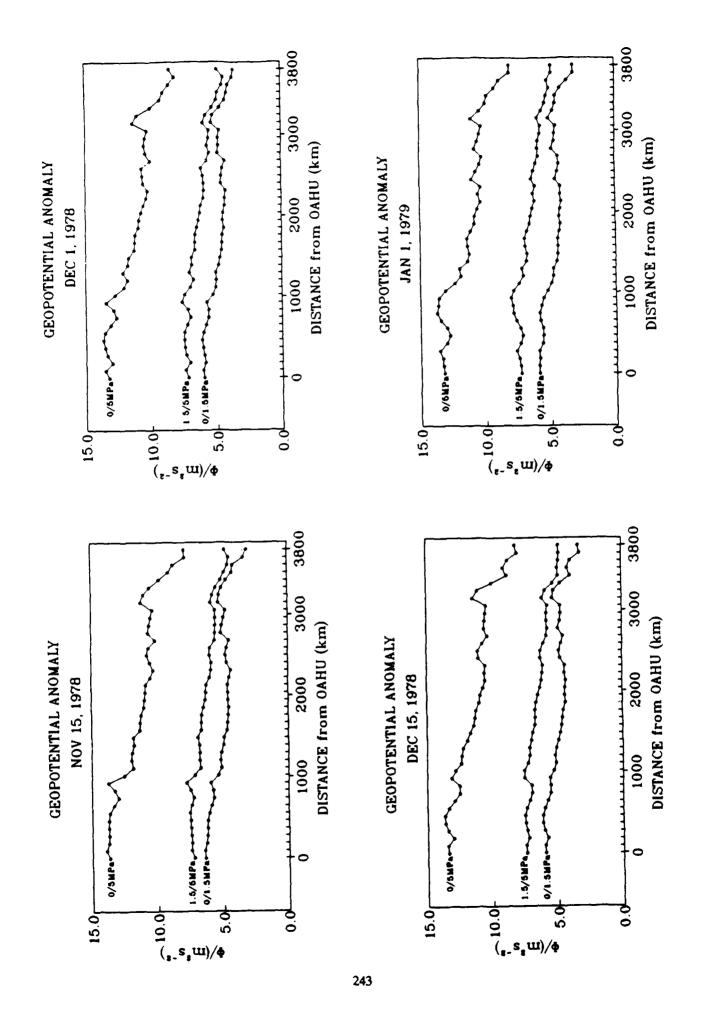


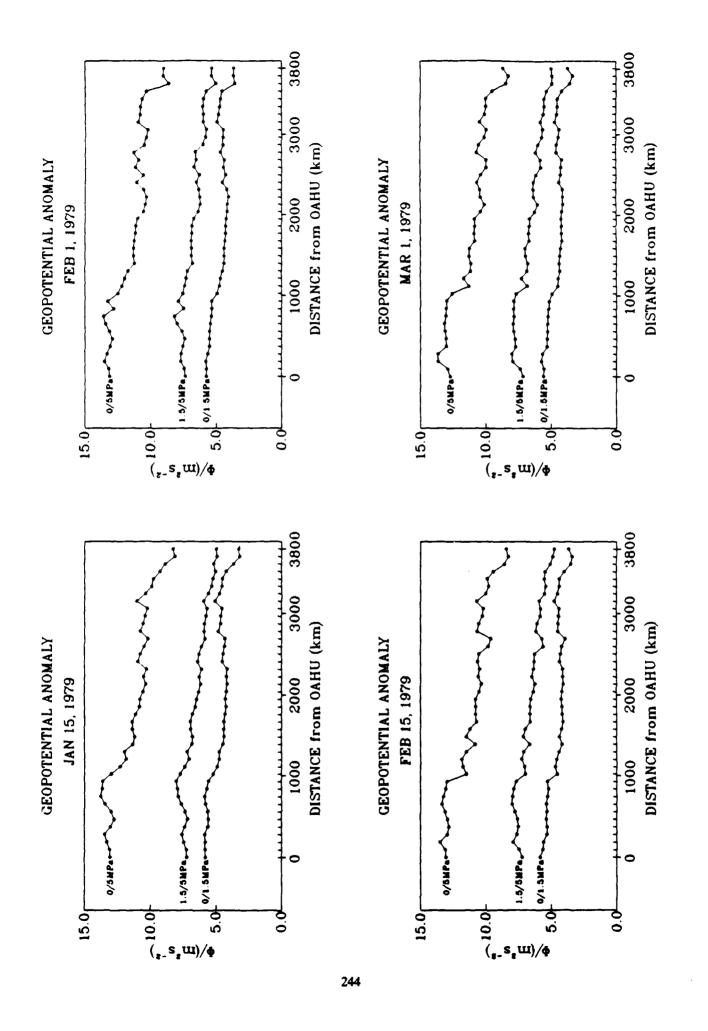


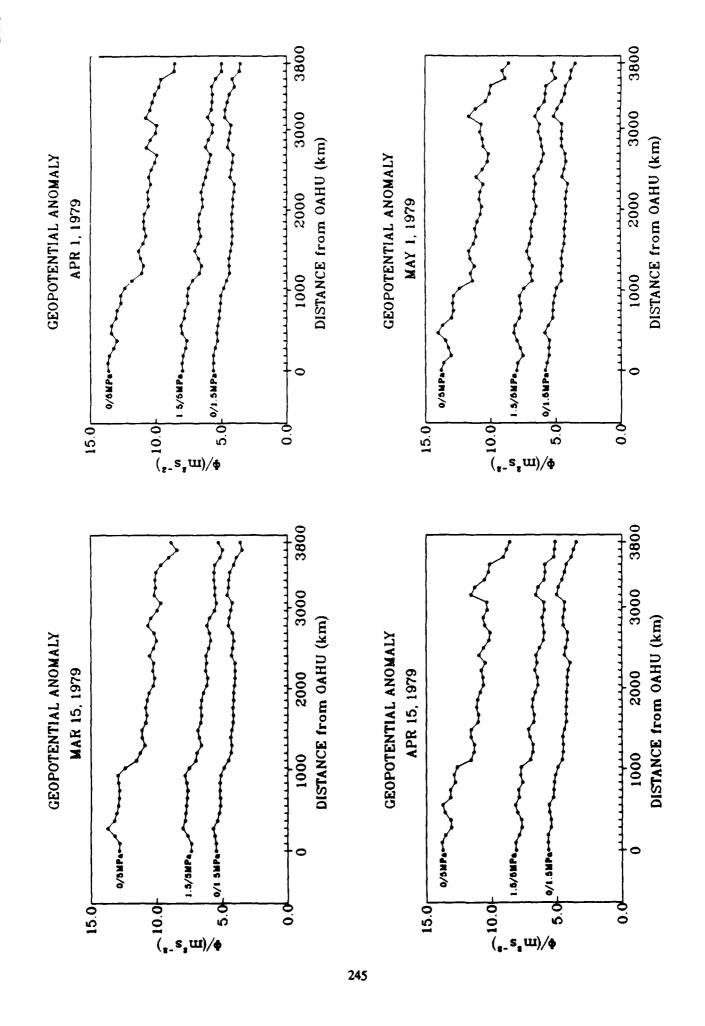


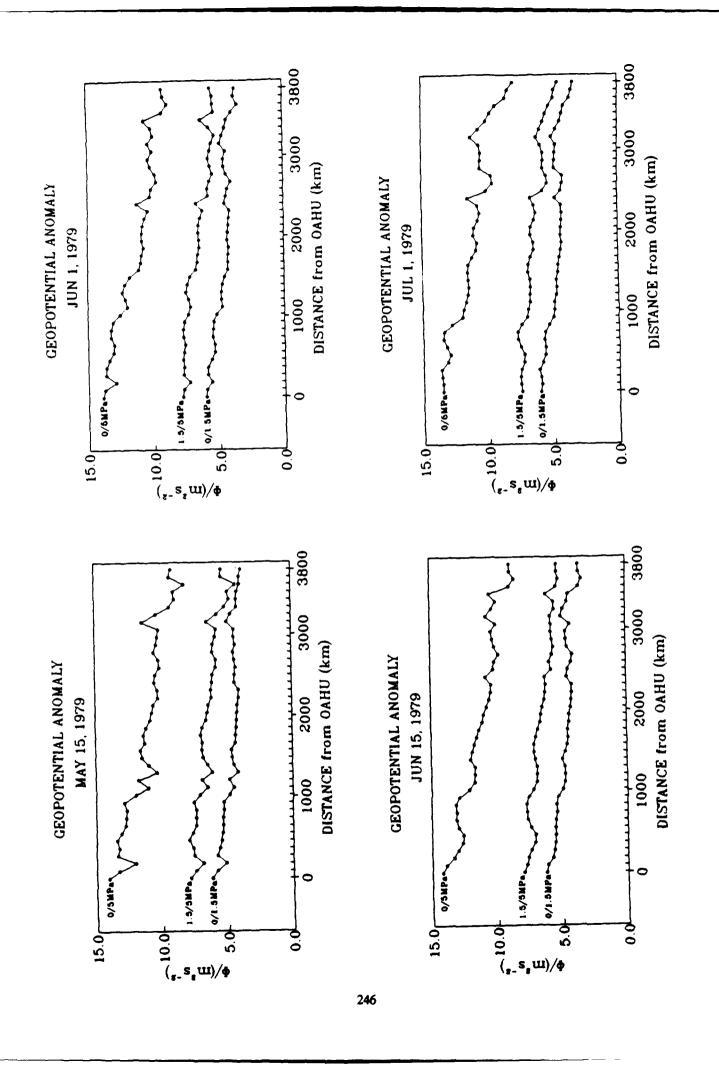


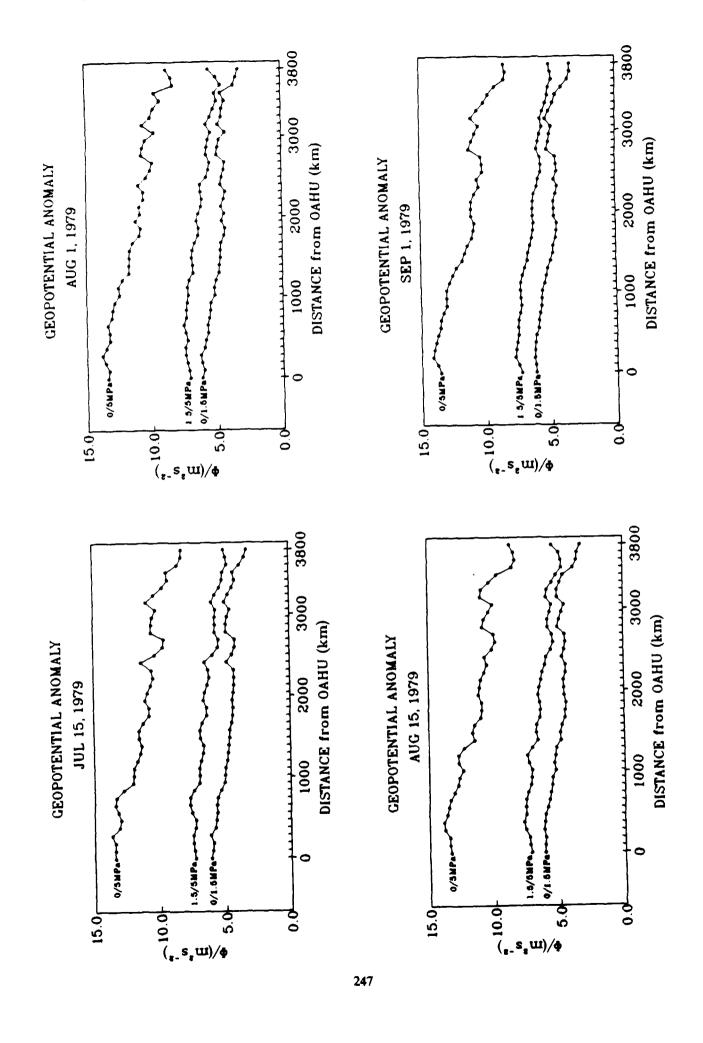


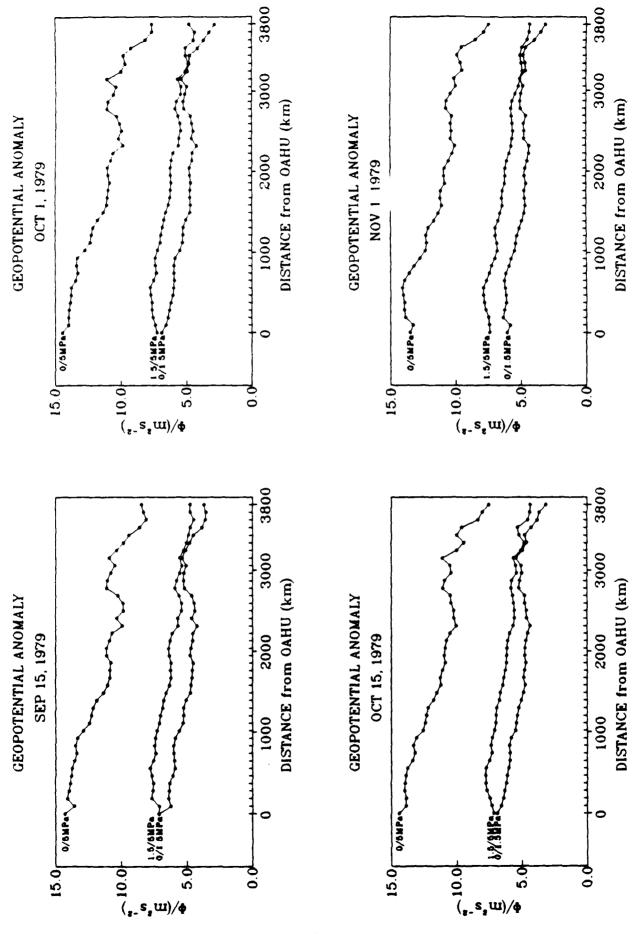


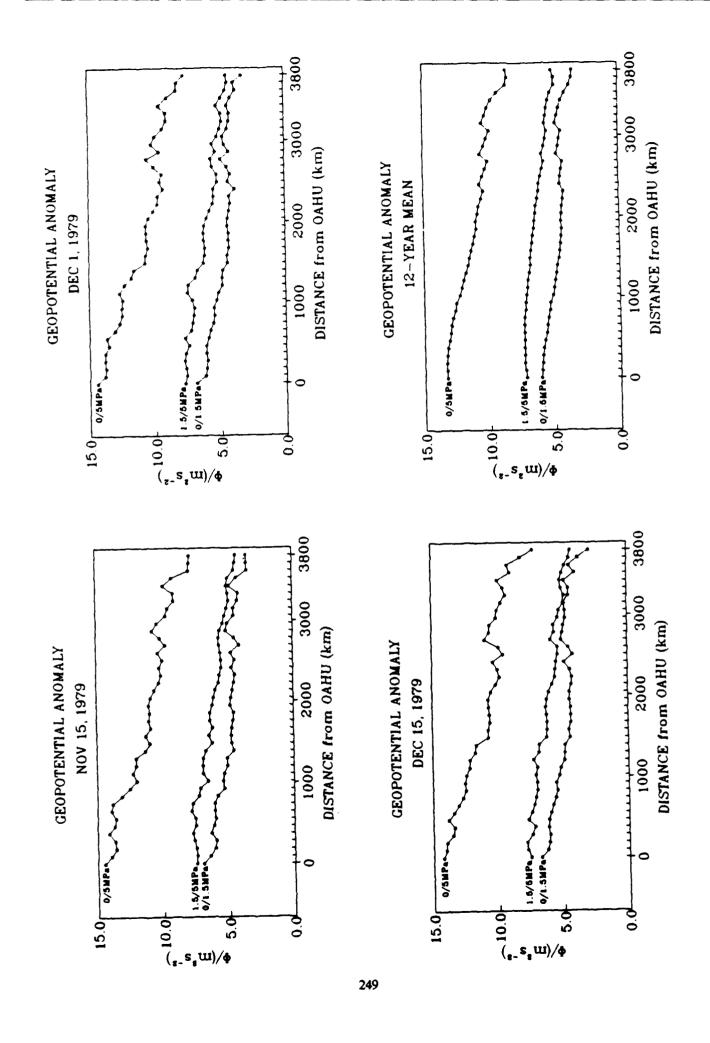


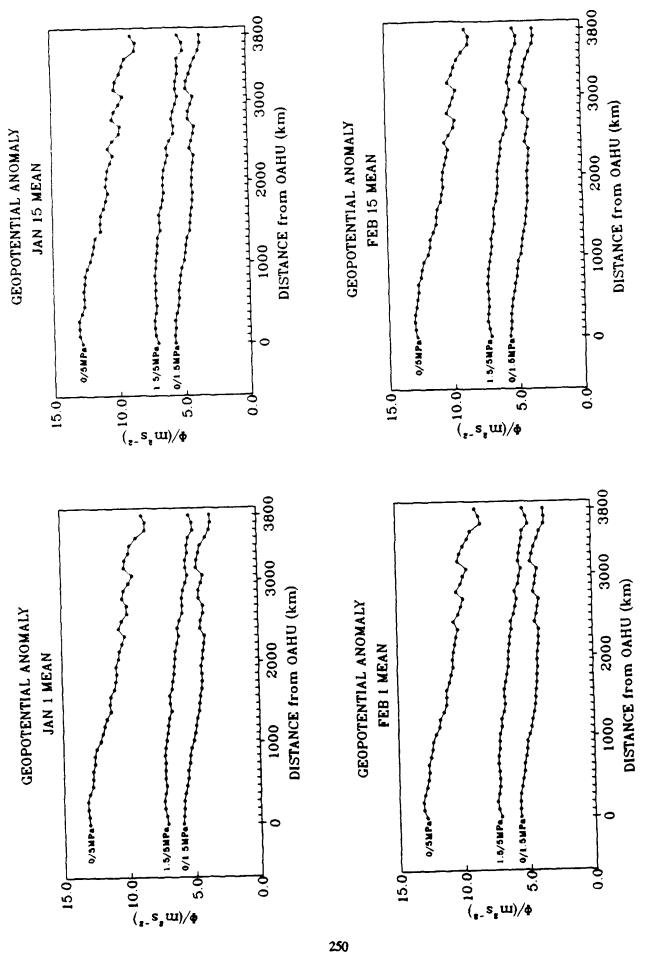


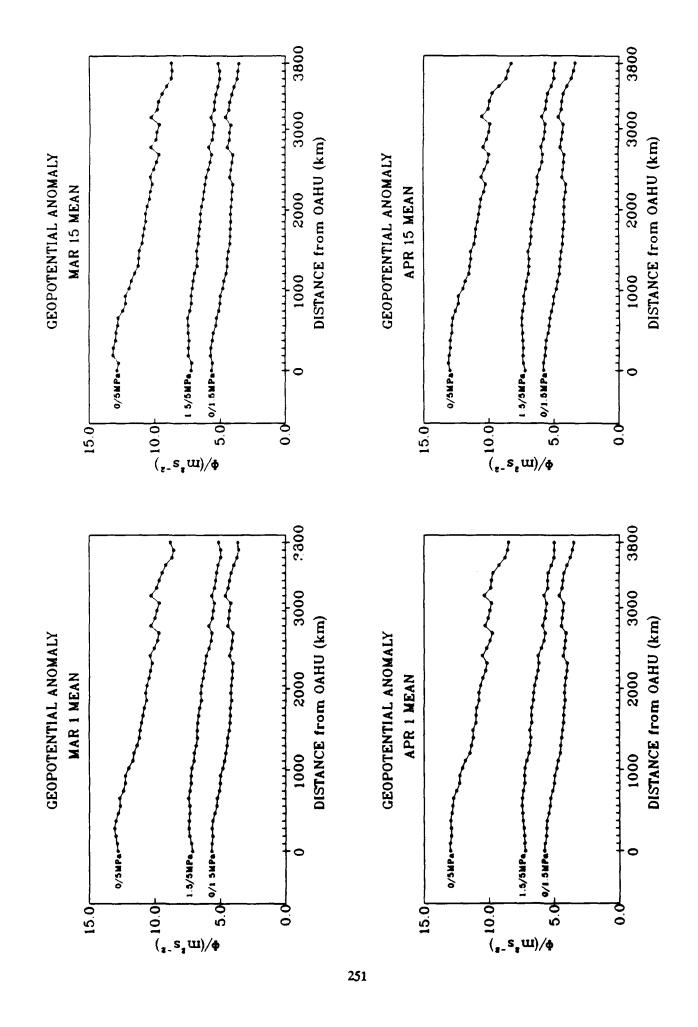


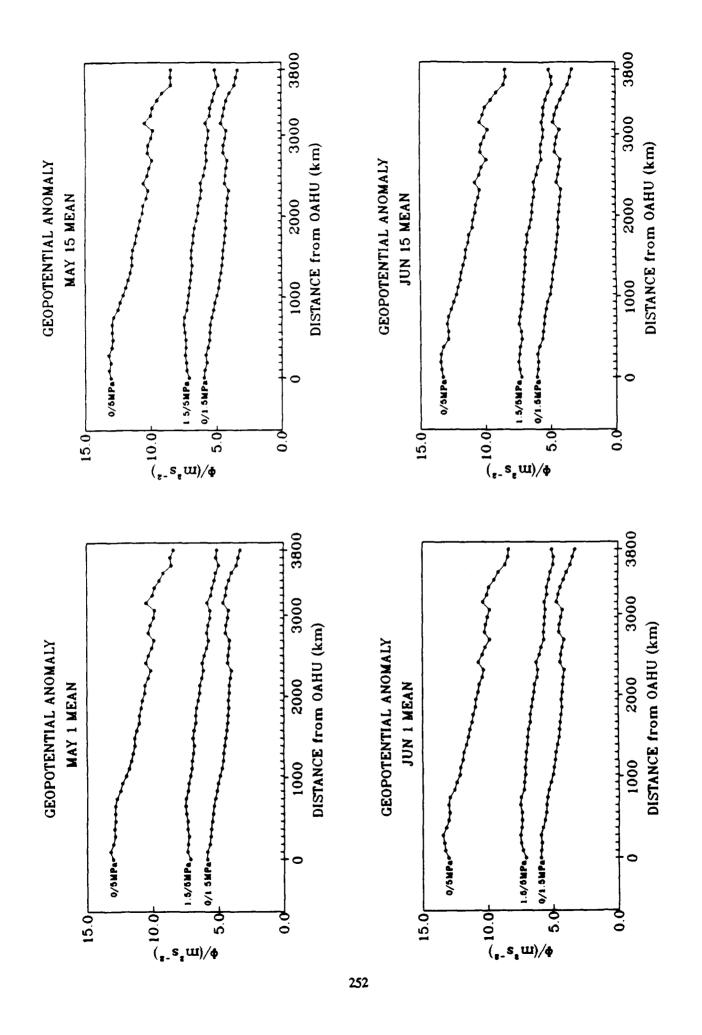


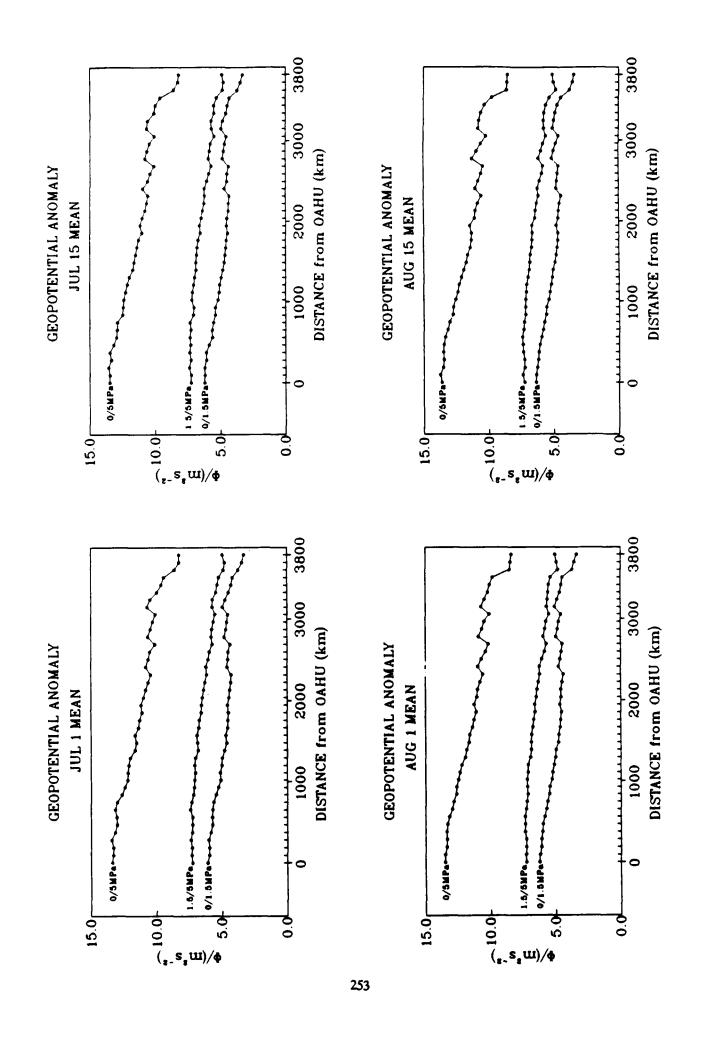


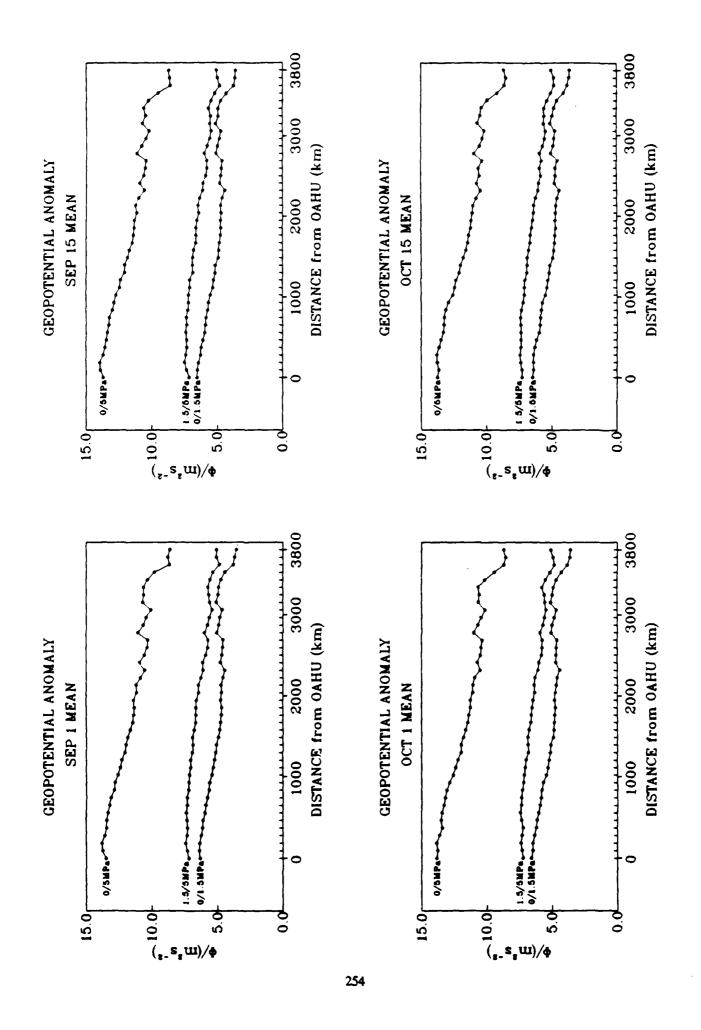


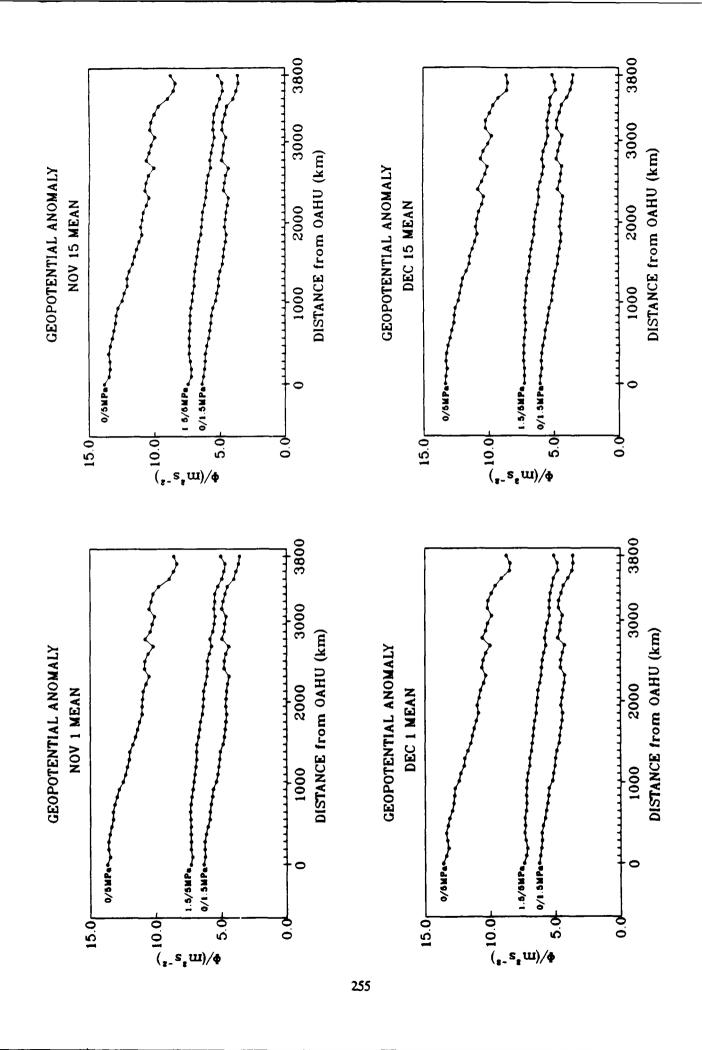












SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Date Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
Technical Report 89-1	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
Semi-Monthly Temperature and Geopotential Anoma' in the Upper 500 Meters Along the Oahu-Irallon Islands Great Circle From November 15, 1967 Through Decamber 15, 1979.		S. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED
		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7 AUTHOR(#)		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(#)
James M. Price and Dailin Wang		N00014-82-C-9380
PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Hawaii Institute of Geophysics 2525 Correa Road Honolulu, Hawaii 96822		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
Office of Naval Research Ocean Sciences and Technology Division Bay St. Louis, MS 39520		12. REPORT DATE May 1989
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES
Office of Naval Research, Branch Office 1030 East Green Street Pasadena, CA 91106		16. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified
		184. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 30, If different from Report)

18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Published as Hawaii Institute of Geophysics Technical Report 89-1, May 1989 by Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, 2525 Correa Rd., Honolulu, HI 96822.

19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

Ocean Circulation Temperature Observations Geopotential Structure XBT Observations

Oahu--Farallon Islands Great Circle

20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

séable bathythermograph (XBT) observa mapped onto the gress circle art from Oaks, Hawaii to the Farallon Islands off San Francisco, California are presented. They reveal the temperature structure in the upper 500 meters from November 15, 1967 through December 15, 1979. In addition, sections of geopotential anomalies relative to 5 MPs (5 mags Pascale) derived from the temperature sections and temperature salmity (T/S) relations are presented. Averages of temperature and geopotential anomalies over the 12 complete years of data coverage, 1968 - 1979, and over each semi-month (i.e. all January 1 sections, all January 15 sections, all February 1 sections, etc.) during the 12-year period accompany the

A modest bibliography of studies on other observations of the temperature structure and currents in the North Pacific is included, along with a brief discussion of the various topics addressed us the studies referenced